

New UN consultations as diplomatic efforts to reach a peaceful settlement in Gulf intensify

Baker and Hurd say deadline is unchanged

By MICHAEL KNIFE, DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

JAMES Baker, the American Secretary of State, and Douglas Hurd, the foreign secretary, maintained their hardline approach against Baghdad yesterday, rejecting any extension of the United Nations deadline for Iraq's withdrawal from Kuwait.

There was no official comment in Paris last night on news agency reports that both President Saddam Hussein and the Palestine Liberation Organization had suggested to the French that the UN Security Council should meet to reconsider its authorization of the use of force if Iraq did not withdraw from Kuwait by January 15.

In Saudi Arabia, John Major dismissed any suggestion of an extension beyond a week today as an Iraqi ploy. With prospects bleak of a positive outcome from tomorrow's crucial meeting with Tariq Aziz, the Iraqi foreign minister, in Geneva, the American

embassy in Baghdad began destroying the last of its files, and other foreign missions gave a warning to their citizens to prepare to flee overland if Iraq closed its airspace.

Despite the uncompromising Anglo-American stance on negotiations, diplomatic efforts to avert war are expected to intensify in the run-up to next Tuesday. Among the options being explored are further direct last-minute talks between America and Iraq, a new round of consultations between the foreign ministers of the permanent members of the security council, and a revival of the diplomatic efforts of the European Community.

Although Mr Baker has already made it clear that he will reject an invitation from Mr Aziz for him to visit Baghdad, the Iraqi foreign minister is expected to deliver one.

The personal message Mr Baker is delivering from President Bush to Saddam is, he concedes, the first written message from the American leader to his Iraqi counterpart since the invasion of Kuwait. Perhaps significantly, although President Bush has ruled out a meeting with Saddam in Baghdad, Mr Baker has declined to rule out a summit at any other location.

The Secretary of State is using his ten-minute tour to discuss the next steps which may be taken by the anti-Iraq alliance. He flies to Paris today for a second intensive round of diplomatic meetings to co-ordinate policy among the leading members of the anti-Baghdad coalition.

In Paris, despite past European coolness to the military option, Mr Baker expects to obtain unanimous backing for America's hardline stance towards Baghdad. He will be explaining American strategy to President Mitterrand of France, Helmut Kohl, the German chancellor, and Gianni De Michelis, the Italian foreign minister, before going to Geneva for his showdown with Mr Aziz.



Joint determination: Douglas Hurd and James Baker in London for talks during which they agreed that the UN deadline for an Iraqi withdrawal should not be extended

Labour calls for caution on force

By NICHOLAS WOOD, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

Yesterday, after a two-hour meeting with Mr Hurd, Mr Baker explained American thinking to Manfred Wörner, the Nato secretary-general, Francisco Fernández Ordóñez, the Spanish foreign minister, and Jacques Poos, the foreign minister of Luxembourg, which holds the EC presidency.

Mr Baker, spelling out his opposition to any extension of the UN deadline, said: "We should not be talking about postponing deadlines which we have been saying for five months are real deadlines. Saddam Hussein has it within his power to determine whether there is peace or whether there is not peace. The choice is his. We hope he makes the right choice."

Mr Hurd echoed Mr Baker, saying: "We have ears cocked for a message from Baghdad, but this is not the message. The message the world is waiting for is not one of delay but one of compliance."

Mr Baker, whose meeting with Mr Hurd lasted 30 minutes longer than scheduled, said the message from America and Britain remained "exactly identical" as it had throughout the conflict. Mr Hurd said: "There's a double message that if the Iraqis stay in Kuwait, if they maintain aggression, they will be forced out. If they fully comply with the security council resolutions they will not be forced out."

Mr Baker's meeting with the Iraqi foreign minister would "not be a negotiation, it would be a demand," he said.

Continued on page 16, col 1

Saddam move is dismissed as ploy

From ROBIN OAKLEY IN RIYADH

A POSSIBLE attempt by President Saddam Hussein to seek an extension of the United Nations deadline of January 15 authorising his expulsion by force from Kuwait was last night dismissed as a ploy by John Major, the prime minister.

Mr Major said: "We have known for some time that he might play games of this kind but it is not something we are prepared to contemplate." The prime minister said that the Iraqi leader had had five months to get out of Kuwait and ample warning of the January 15 deadline.

Asked if the imposition of a firm deadline was not making war more likely, Mr Major said that Kuwaitis were being murdered and maltreated day by day. There had to be a timetable to put pressure on Saddam to withdraw. He added: "There will be no war if he withdraws. It is entirely up to him. If he stays where he is in Kuwait he will be forcibly expelled. If he removes himself to Iraq there will be no war and he will not be attacked."

Mr Major said that if it was the whole world against Saddam and the whole world was to back down there would be little hope of world peace. And if he was given any reward for his action in Kuwait British troops might be back later in the Middle East with a larger task.

Mr Major was yesterday briefed by the British commander in the Gulf, Lieutenant-General Sir Peter de la Billiere, and said that he was impressed by the quality of his staff and the high morale of the British forces. They were "very ready" for any conflict.

He added: "The sheer scale of air and other power is remarkable. I hope Saddam Hussein realises what is ranged against him."

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Moscow sends in troops to enforce conscription

From MARY DEJEVSKY IN MOSCOW

THE Soviet Defence Ministry is sending thousands of paratroops to the Baltic and other Soviet republics to enforce military conscription.

The ministry said that a decree issued by President Gorbachev on December 1 had been ignored and additional measures were needed. The Soviet defence capability was threatened, it said.

The statement cited figures showing that by the end of the year more than a fifth of all conscripts had failed to turn up for service. In the southern republic of Georgia, nine out of ten conscripts had ignored the draft, with more than 85 per cent staying away in Lithuania. Across the three

Baltic states, more than three-quarters failed to observe the draft. The ministry said that draft dodgers and deserters should be tracked down and returned to their units.

Earlier, the Soviet Chief of General Staff, General Mikhail Moiseyev, said that the instruction to enforce conscription had been sent to military authorities in the Baltic, Armenia, Georgia, Moldova and some areas of the Ukraine.

A spokesman for the Latvian parliament said that the commander of the Baltic military region, General Fedor Kuzmin, had called the republic's interior minister with instructions that local police should not intervene in the operation because troops had orders to open fire.

The precise timing of the operation was still in doubt last night after a report from Estonia said that the dispatch of paratroop divisions had been delayed following a personal appeal from the republic's president. The Estonian news agency, EtA, reported last night that General Kuzmin had offered to suspend the sending of paratroops after President Arnold Rüütel had protested to President Gorbachev.

All three Baltic republics stopped enforcing conscription to the Soviet army after they declared their intention of seceding from the Soviet Union last spring.

The Soviet Union has a system of universal conscription which requires every male over 17 to register for the draft. Service is two years in the army and air force and three in the navy. Those going on to higher education may defer their service until graduation, when they have the option of joining the officer corps.

A new bill on military service published last month would provide an alternative form of civilian service for conscientious objectors.

● MOSCOW — Three people were killed in the Georgian region of South Ossetia when police opened fire on civilians, the independent Interfax news agency said yesterday.

"A detachment of Georgian police opened fire on a group of unarmed people on Sunday. According to our information, two people were killed," it said.

"In several areas in and around the South Ossetian capital) Tskhinvali, random gunfire could be heard on Sunday. Entry to the city was blocked and many streets in the centre were cordoned off."

Shrewd gambles, page 8

Snowfalls hamper storm mop up

By KERRY GILL AND PETER VICTOR

HEAVY snow brought serious travel delays yesterday in the wake of the weekend storms, which claimed up to 30 lives.

In Scotland, snow blocked roads and halted flights from Glasgow and Edinburgh airports. In Glasgow, police urged drivers not to travel unless it was absolutely necessary. The weather delayed mopping up after floods hit the Ayrshire coast over the weekend causing millions of pounds worth of damage.

The worst snowfalls to hit the southern half of Scotland so far this winter came just before dawn and hampered attempts to clear roads for rush hour traffic. Many vehicles were abandoned and thousands of people stayed at home. The snow started in southern Scotland and swept north, blanketing roads which in some areas were already covered in ice. The AA praised motorists for driving sensibly.

Drivers entering Glasgow faced long tailbacks. Many main roads were blocked for several hours and police in Strathclyde and Central Scotland urged motorists to avoid the city centre.

Forecast, page 16



Gorbachev: call-up decree has been ignored

No-coaching call in reading tests

By DAVID TYTLER, EDUCATION EDITOR

TEACHERS and parents are being put on their honour not to coach children for this summer's national curriculum tests for seven-year-olds in reading, announced by the government yesterday.

The reading tests are based on a list of 50 books sent to teachers and is available to parents. Tim Eggar, the education minister, announcing the tests in English, mathematics and science, said: "We decided to be open about the tests and rely on the professionalism of the teachers."

Mr Eggar said it was likely that the lists would be changed from year to year but he expected most schools to have most of the named books.

The tests, known as standard assessment tasks, had been prepared by the School Examinations and Assessment Council which would also ensure that they were being operated fairly. They are based at three levels for English, mathematics and science, with level two being the average for a seven-year-old. They have been considerably reduced from the pilot tests last summer which proved unmanageable and now concentrate on the fundamentals of reading writing, spelling, mathematics and some simple science.

Mr Eggar said that teachers should judge which level the children were capable of so that they did not waste time with tests which were too easy or too difficult. The reading tests, which will require teachers to spend about 20 minutes with each pupil, will be spread over the whole term but Mr Eggar estimated the remainder could be carried out in groups of four during three weeks in the first half of the term.

Test details, page 3

American history lost in an electronic maze

From JAMES BONE IN NEW YORK

THE information revolution may leave a good slice of American history blank. Millions of pieces of historic, scientific and business data inscribed on computer files in the American government's archives could prove to be unreadable because the information is stranded on computer tape from primitive or discarded systems. Americans researching their family history — the largest use of the US National Archives — will find many tell-tale details of their forebears beyond reach in an electronic maze that nobody knows any longer how to navigate.

Public Health Service computer tapes have already been destroyed because nobody knew what the names and numbers on them meant. Huge electronic dossiers compiled by government commissions on such subjects as drug abuse, school financing and consumer finance have had to be discarded because of inadequate information about how to read them. Kenneth Thibodeau, director of electronic records for the National Archives, who has just received Congress's approval to add eight more people to his 20-strong staff, said: "We're just scratching the surface of the problems we will have."

The difficulties that have recently come to light include:

- The most extensive record of Americans who served in the second world war is unreadable because no money or manpower can be found to translate the 1,600 reels of microfilm of computer punch cards on which it is stored.
- The government's Agent Orange Task Force, which investigates which Vietnam war veterans were exposed to the herbicide, has been unable to use Pentagon computer tapes listing the date, site and size of every United States defoliant bombing during the war.
- US Railway Association archives listing work records back to 1920 are written with the so-called "Version 2" of a program called Basis. Programmers now use Version 8 and nobody can remember how the earlier program works.

One of the National Archives' biggest problems is poor record-keeping. Programmers frequently omit to write down how their machine works, how the data is organised and what information is carried on each tape. With more than a million personal computers now being used by United States government officials, the difficulties are likely to get worse. "There is not a great deal of control over what kind of information is on them, how long the records have been kept and how well they are documented," said Mr Thibodeau.

INSIDE

Dollar and oil rise

The dollar jumped on the foreign exchange markets as dealers put the currency markets on a war footing. The oil price also rose on war fears.

Though ending almost 3 cents lower against the dollar at \$1.9035, the pound moved to 1.32 pfennigs higher to finish at DM2.9239, and improved against other ERM currencies to climb off the bottom of the parity grid. Page 17

Twin jailed



Gillian Philpott, whose husband had an affair with her twin sister, was jailed for two years yesterday after she admitted strangling him and trying to make his death look like suicide. Page 3

Beach dangers

Confusing notices and a lack of adequate safety measures can make bathing at Britain's beaches dangerous, according to the Consumers' Association. Page 4

Guatemala vote

Jorge Serrano Elias, an evangelical businessman, was declared president of Guatemala yesterday. Page 5

Coal call

A call for the British Coal Corporation to be privatised "as soon as is sensibly possible" was made by the corporation's commercial director, Malcolm Edwards. Page 18

Tote report

The Lloyds Merchant Bank report on the Tote criticises Lord Wyatt, its chairman, and recommends that the £200 million a year business should be removed from the control of the Home Office. Page 27

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Woman is jailed for strangling husband over affair with twin

By RAY CLANCY

A FORMER bank cashier who strangled her husband after discovering he was having an affair with her twin sister and tried to make his death look like suicide was jailed for two years yesterday.

Gillian Philpott, aged 28, killed her husband Graham, a bank manager, on New Year's eve 1989 when she realised that their marriage had developed into a love triangle, the jury at the Central Criminal Court was told. She then tried to take a drugs overdose.

When that failed she drove to Beachy Head, intending to drive her car over the cliff, but was found slumped over the wheel.

Philpott, of Oryington, Kent, denied murder but her plea of manslaughter on the ground of provocation was accepted. Judge

Denison told Philpott that her greatest punishment would be having to live the rest of her life with the knowledge of what she had done.

No one could fail to have sympathy with her but she had deprived two children of a father and had made what happened seem like suicide.

The couple had met while both working for the same bank in the City. They lived together for several years but her husband's affair began shortly after they married in September 1988.

John Nutting, for the prosecution, said that when they went on honeymoon to the Far East "to the surprise of some of their friends Mrs Philpott's twin Janet accompanied them". When they returned Mrs Philpott invited her sister to live with them and she accepted with enthusiasm.

Although outwardly nothing seemed amiss, the affair between Mr Philpott, aged 33, who had been married twice before, and Janet, had started. "The cauldron of this eternal triangle simmered in private," Mr Nutting said.

Eventually something was wrong. Her husband "seemed to enjoy Janet's company more than hers. She felt uncomfortable when they all went out together for a drink".

Then she found a card from her husband to Janet, saying: "To my darling, I wish you every happiness at Christmas. I am so fortunate to spend my life with you always."

When Philpott confronted them they told her she was being neurotic, Mr Nutting said. She became increasingly depressed and consulted a doctor.

Janet eventually left the marital home. She and her husband went to neighbours' parties and to the outside world seemed as loving as ever, but the relationship had deteriorated and Mr Philpott had insisted on separate rooms.

Philpott strangled her husband in his bedroom with a pink dressing gown cord after they returned from a party in the early hours. She dragged his body down the stairs to a half-landing where she tied another dressing gown cord round a banister "to indicate he committed suicide", Mr Nutting said. She then took 30

painkillers with some alcohol but was sick. She drove to Beachy Head, East Sussex, and wrote a note which she hoped would persuade people that her husband had committed suicide and that she had done the same.

It said: "We could not live separately. We wanted to die together. Please keep us together, I beg of you. We loved one another so much".

A passer-by found her slumped in the driver's seat of the car. Mr Nutting said police broke into the couple's home and found Mr Philpott's body. There was no tension on the cord joining him to the banister and it was clear that he had been placed there.

Philpott was arrested on January 2 and in police interviews denied killing her husband, saying he was alive when she left home. Mr Nutting read extracts from the interviews in which she told police that her husband was nice to her in front of neighbours but ignored her in private.

It added: "He didn't want to know me from the time Janet left. He said he didn't care for me any more and wanted a divorce. I asked if I could come to bed and he said no. He lost his temper, he got up and grabbed me round the neck," she said.

Asked by police during the interview if she thought he intended her serious harm, she replied: "I don't know, but from the look on his face I think he wanted to."

"I begged him to love me. I tried everything possible to make the marriage work. I loved him so much. He said he didn't want me. I just didn't know what I was doing. All I could see was Graham standing there shouting at me."

Alan Suckling, QC, for the defence, told the judge that it became plain that Mr Philpott was hopelessly infatuated with her sister. His wife was provoked by his conduct.

Mr Suckling said: "Surely there can be nothing more provoking than for the man you have married to fall in love with and have an affair with your sister. She did everything she could to patch up the marriage. Any reasonable woman in her position may have acted in the way she did."



Gillian Philpott (left), who was jailed for two years yesterday, and her twin sister Janet



Prince of Wales talks about transport policy with Rifkind

By MICHAEL MCCARTHY, ENVIRONMENT CORRESPONDENT

THE Prince of Wales has followed his recent criticism of the destruction of the countryside by road building with a meeting with Malcolm Rifkind, the transport secretary.

The transport department said last night that the meeting at St James's Palace on December 20 was private but that Mr Rifkind was received in his official capacity, which means that transport policy was on the agenda. Neither the department nor Buckingham Palace would confirm that the discussion focused on the environmental consequences of the government's £17 billion roads programme, which is attracting growing criticism from conservation groups.

The prince has already added his voice to the criticism in a Royal Society for Nature Conservation video in which he quoted the society's calculation that 372 important wildlife sites would be damaged or destroyed by the roads programme in nine

southern counties alone. In the video, he says: "We really do have to start asking which methods of transport move the largest numbers of people and goods at the lowest environmental cost."

The society says that if the likely pattern of destruction by road building in the South is



Rifkind: met Prince of Wales at St James's Palace

repeated across the country, 1,500 important wildlife sites will be at risk. The National Trust has said that 30 of its historic estates or properties are threatened by the roads programme, and English Heritage said that 800 archaeological sites face damage or destruction.

The prince is known to be concerned about the appraisal procedures used by the transport department for road projects and which are seen by a growing number of transport specialists as inadequate to protect even nationally important areas of countryside.

Although environmental assessments are involved from the beginning, they are merely an adjunct to the key calculation as to whether a road provides theoretical value for money. In that calculation, landscapes such as the white cliffs of Dover or Twyford Down in Wiltshire, both of which are threatened by road schemes, are valued at only the market price of the land.

Travellers spared delays as fares rise

By JOHN YOUNG

MOST rail passengers in England, Wales and Northern Ireland travelling on the first weekday morning after fare increases averaging 9.5 per cent were at least spared serious disruption of services.

Trains between Doncaster and Leeds were diverted because of a landslip at Wakefield, and there were delays on the Cumbrian coast line between Barrow and Workington, but in spite of the weekend's storms there were no other severe problems. Services in Scotland, however, were hit by industrial action.

Chris Bunting, one of the plaintiffs in a writ issued against BR shortly before Christmas by a group of eastern region commuters, said yesterday that nothing much had gone wrong, but added: "My fares have gone up by 63 per cent in the last three years, and the service has got worse. I don't object to fare rises in line with inflation provided we see some improvement, but we don't."

John Prescott, Labour transport spokesman, said: "Britain has a high-fare, low-quality railway service, and things are getting worse and worse." Since 1979 rail fares had risen by 40 per cent more than the cost of other items, and local passenger transport authorities were threatening to withhold subsidies because the service was too poor to justify increases.

"The government has consistently cut the public subsidy to BR, and since 1983 has robbed the railways of over £3,000 million in public support," he said. The subsidy was granted in 1974 on condition that services were maintained, but BR had allowed quality to fall and so was in breach of contract with the government.

A 24-hour strike by guards at Glasgow's Queen Street railway station yesterday led to almost half of Scotland's mainline train services being cancelled (Kerry Gill writes).

More than 100 guards at the station went on strike and many other staff refused to cross picket lines, according to the National Union of Rail, Maritime and Transport Workers. Thousands of commuters were left waiting at stations all over Scotland.

The dispute is over five guards who were allowed to sit tests to become drivers, but were then barred from training when it emerged that they had been disciplined for drink-related offences. The union says that ScotRail is in breach of a BR national agreement.

Union leaders gave a warning that further stoppages might be ordered and said that later this month about 1,000 guards working for the Scottish network would be balloted on strike action. Almost the whole mainline network would be halted if the guards voted to strike.

ScotRail said that it would hold further talks with the union later this week. More than half the services were running yesterday. Routes affected included Glasgow to Edinburgh, Aberdeen, Inverness and Fort William and intermediate stations.

One million Britons a year using cannabis, study says

By QUENTIN COWDRY, HOME AFFAIRS CORRESPONDENT

BRITAIN has 100,000 heroin addicts and about one million people who each year use cannabis, according to a report published yesterday by the government-funded Institute for the Study of Drug Dependence.

While emphasising the difficulty of assessing the extent of drug abuse, the report says that it has stabilised over the past few years, albeit at a much higher level than in 1980. Cocaine, the most feared drug of the late 1980s, is still a minor player in spite of all the publicity it has attracted.

The report, based on a broad range of official statistics and surveys, notes that the British drug scene is dominated by cannabis, which accounts for between 80 and 90 per cent of all illicit drug seizures and convictions, and home-produced amphetamines.

"Cannabis misuse is established in the leisure activity of a significant cross-section of the population, with the exception of the middle-aged and elderly," says the institute, one of the most influential research bodies on drug misuse. "In any year," it says, "perhaps a million people in Britain smoke or, less commonly, eat the drug."

The institute says the next most widely abused drug is amphetamine, or "speed", a stimulant that has been seized in growing quantities since the late 1970s. Purity levels have fallen to as low as 5 per cent in some areas, indicating a sharp growth in demand.

The report says heroin abuse has also increased substantially over the same period, fed by increased supplies from abroad. Notifications of new addicts more

than trebled over the past decade, with 5,639 recorded in 1989. The institute suggests that the total number of heroin addicts has also multiplied by three; studies indicate that the proportion of addicts recorded by the Home Office has remained constant at around 20 per cent since 1980.

"Using a multiplier of five, it can be estimated that between

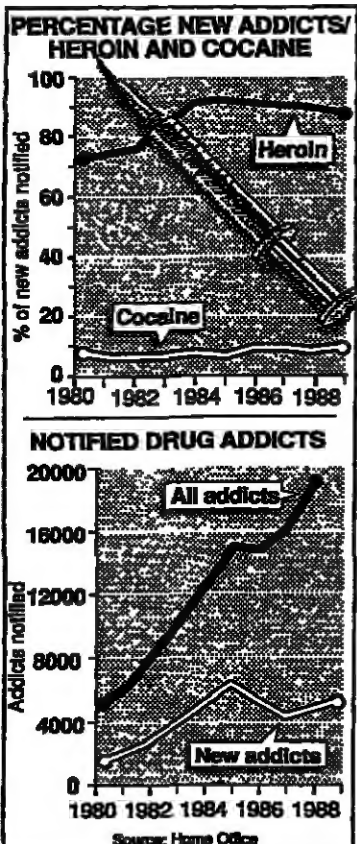
74,000 and 112,000 people in the UK were dependent on opiates at some time in 1989," the report says. However, the fear, voiced in the mid-1980s, that many teenagers would start "chasing the dragon" has proved groundless.

The institute bemoans the failure to monitor drug abuse in the same way as alcohol consumption and smoking. Regular statistics on drug abusers, it says, only record those who have come to the notice of the authorities, either by seeking help for addiction or because of arrest for a drug-related offence. Surveys provided additional data, but they were generally small in scale.

Of all the surveys, the 1982 British Crime Survey, based on a random sample of the adult population, is probably the most valuable, the report says. According to its findings, one in 20 adults have used illegal drugs, the proportion rising to one in eight among young adults. Other research suggested that 3-4 per cent of children aged 15 and 16 had experimented with cannabis, with 2 per cent of youngsters aged 14 to 16 having tried solvents.

Misuse is more common among young adults. A government study conducted in 1989 indicated that 12 per cent of young people aged 19 and 20 had eaten hallucinogenic mushrooms, while 10 per cent had tried amphetamines, 7 per cent LSD, 3 per cent cocaine and 1 per cent heroin.

The institute urges the government to conduct regular random surveys to discover the precise extent of drug abuse so that education campaigns and support services can be properly planned and evaluated.



Economic fears 'hit house sales'

By CHRISTOPHER WARMAN, PROPERTY CORRESPONDENT

THE recovery of the housing market is being held back by high interest rates and by a lack of confidence in the economy, the House-Builders Federation said yesterday.

Terry Upsall, new president of the federation, said that houses were once more affordable but that people were not prepared to buy in the climate of uncertainty.

He said that "high interest rates, the spectre of rising unemployment and a real recession and the Gulf crisis looming over the world economy, are all pointers to uncertainty and lack of confidence in the housing market. And yet positive signs are there too, with sensible house price to earnings ratios after two years of falling and static house prices and 20 per cent increases in earnings."

The ratio of house price to earnings, a key indicator of affordability, has fallen to less than 4:1 compared with a high of nearly 5:1. "All the preconditions for the recovery of the market are there, the pent-up demand is there, but high interest rates and a lack of confidence because of them and of fears about the Gulf are preventing it," Mr Upsall said.

He said that lower interest rates were crucial to builders and to housebuyers and urged the government even to consider devaluation, if "that is what it takes to reduce interest rates".

Mr Upsall added: "Without a reduction in rates, even with the slow improvement we can expect to see in the housing market, the continuing burden of debt financing for a third year could be too much for some housebuilders."

Policewoman's case begins in private

By RONALD FAUX

THE industrial tribunal into claims by Alison Halford, assistant chief constable of Merseyside, that sexual discrimination prevented her promotion, opened yesterday in Liverpool in private.

Miss Halford, aged 50, who is Britain's highest-ranking policewoman arrived five minutes before the start of the hearing and told reporters that she had been instructed to keep silent.

Miss Halford is citing the home secretary, her chief constable, the Northamptonshire police authority and Sir Philip Myers, inspector of constabulary in the North West. She is taking the action over her attempts to win promotion to deputy chief constable in Merseyside and in Northamptonshire.

The tribunal was adjourned for documents to be put before it on Friday. It is not known whether that hearing will be private.

Iona Morgan, head of publicity

for the Equal Opportunities Commission, which is backing Miss Halford's action and paying her legal expenses, said that the commission accepted that some aspects of the case should be heard in private, but believed that the majority should be dealt with openly, as in any other sexual discrimination tribunal.

The commission, Ms Morgan said, remained concerned about a "glass ceiling" that many women faced in their careers, beyond which they could not progress because of sexual discrimination.

PC Surinder Singh, an Asian policeman who last year successfully claimed that he had been racially discriminated against by Nottinghamshire police, is in a new dispute with the force, over the two sides' failure to agree damages, and the matter is to go before a tribunal again on January 28.

Keeping a lid on who has passed what examination

EXAMINATION results are closely guarded secrets, it has become clear to those trying to find out how many O-levels the prime minister achieved (David Tyler writes).

John Major will not unravel the mystery and his old school, Rutlish, in Wimbledon, south-west London, will not say. Indeed, it is unlikely that the school still hold records for 1959. John Sutton, general secretary of the Secondary Heads Association, said: "Most schools keep their results for between five and ten years, because people do need

them, usually for job references."

The only sure record lies with the examination board setting the papers and it will release the information only with the candidate's permission. "Qualifications are a confidential matter," said George Turnbull, of the Associated Examining Board, which keeps records of all examinations set since 1955.

School leavers applying for jobs would probably be asked to show certificates but in later life most employers accept what prospective employees say. If checks are required, firms can ask the

examination board for details if applicants can remember the date and details of the examination.

The Associated Examining Board receives between 4,000 and 5,000 requests every year, mostly from people wanting to enter university or some other form of further education or to join a professional association.

"We usually issue letters of confirmation as we are reluctant to issue duplicate certificates," Mr Turnbull said. "There are some exceptions, such as a sex change or change of name but we would need verification." Mr

Major told David Frost in his TV-am programme on Sunday that he went on to take a banking degree by correspondence course and recommended others to do the same. It is advice that has already been taken: about a million people are studying at home.

About 50 organisations now provide courses. The biggest is the Open University, which uses radio and television, audio tapes and videos, backed up by tutorials and summer schools.

Most correspondence courses are run by commercial concerns offering hundreds of courses con-

trolled by the Council for the Accreditation of Correspondence Colleges, which publishes a list of approved organisations. Correspondence courses are also available from the National Extension College and Nalco Education.

The Open College, launched in 1987 with a £15 million government grant, runs 60 courses designed to improve professional skills while the Open College of the Arts, begun a year earlier, runs practical courses in arts, crafts, music and garden design.

Leading article, page 9

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Evangelical 'outsider' is to lead Guatemala

From TOM GIBB IN GUATEMALA CITY

AN EVANGELICAL businessman was declared president of Guatemala yesterday after winning a big victory in run-off elections.

Jorge Serrano Elias, a relative outsider before the first round vote in November, trounced his opponent with a 40 per cent lead over the conservative newspaper owner, Jorge Carpio Nicolle.

Guatemala returned to elected civilian rule only five years ago when the Christian Democrats were swept to power amid a wave of optimism after decades of military dictatorship.

The experiment in democracy has left many disillusioned, however. Despite the promises of the outgoing president, Vinicio Cerezo, the economy is faltering, crime and political violence are increasing, corruption is rampant, the army remains the real power behind the scenes and a 30-year-old guerrilla war drags on in the mountains.

Guatemala is a country of

extremes. The many visitors could be forgiven for leaving the beautiful country with the impression that they have glimpsed paradise.

A visit to Guatemala City's rubbish dump, however, gives a more truthful impression of the problems the new president will inherit. The refuse forms an enormous rotting cliff at the entrance of a steep gorge. Many dogs and clouds of vultures compete with hundreds of people to survive off the rubbish. A shanty town has grown up on the dump. By working 10 hours a day, people can collect enough old plastic and tins to sell for about 30p.

"More and more people come here to live," said Carlos, aged 42, who has lived and worked in the dump for 26 years. "They have to leave their land when the landlords want to grow sugar cane. The politicians make lots of promises. But for the poor, things get worse."

Human rights activists estimate that in the past 30 years 100,000 civilians have been killed in the country in the course of Latin America's most brutal counter-insurgency campaign, said to be aimed at left-wing guerrillas.

Senior Serrano has promised to halt abuses and negotiate to end the war. But the violence has been going on for so long that nobody is confident.

Senior Serrano in large part owes his victory to the extensive network of evangelical churches in Guatemala, most



Masked protest: human rights campaigners demonstrating outside the American consulate in Hong Kong yesterday. Wearing masks bearing the names of pro-democracy activists jailed by Peking at the weekend, they handed in a letter to President Bush asking him to pressure China to release those jailed after pro-democracy protests in 1989

Arms for Tamils intercepted

From M.G.G. PILLAI IN KUALA LUMPUR

MALAYSIAN customs officials intercepted three speed boats off Penang Island, arrested 33 Sri Lankans and seized mortars and homing devices worth about 1.5 million Malaysian dollars (£350,000).

The weapons, from Thailand, were for the Sri Lankan Tamil Tigers, according to initial reports yesterday on the incident, which happened two weeks ago. News of the incident was withheld.

No announcement on charges against those arrested has as been made, but it is thought likely that some might be deported.

Intelligence forces here believe that the Tamil rebels buy regular supplies of weapons in South-East Asia for use against government forces in their protracted war to gain an independent homeland in Sri Lanka.

The area became a favourite point for buying weapons and other requirements, especially after the end of the Vietnam war in 1975.

Diplomatic sources said then that Tamil Tiger representatives were among the first to turn up in Hanoi to buy weapons which had been discarded by American forces.

Stocks are also bought in Thailand, especially in the southern part of the country. Singapore has also been mentioned for arms buying, although government officials there deny it.



Serrano: has promised to halt abuses

of them offshoots of right-wing churches in America. They have gained a strong foothold in the past 10 years among the majority Indian population. In many areas it was the Roman Catholic Church that bore the brunt of army repression after it played an active role in organising peasant communities.

In the early 1980s Senior Serrano served in the government of the military dictator, General Efraim Rios Montt, and built up close ties with the most conservative wing of the Republican party in the United States. However, more recently has also headed a delegation in direct talks with the rebels.

Relatives flee as Siad Barre seeks talks with rebels

By ANDREW LYCETT

MEMBERS of the family of President Siad Barre of Somalia fled to the United Arab Emirates yesterday as two Italian military aircraft braved heavy gunfire to rescue 240 people trapped in Mogadishu.

Fighting between troops loyal to the president and rebel groups led by the United Somali Congress (USC) has been raging in the city for eight days. Initially, it was reported that President Siad Barre was among 70 Somalis who were seeking political asylum in Abu Dhabi, the capital of the UAE, which has been a significant supporter of his regime in the past. It later emerged that the president was not in the party but several of his relatives and ministers were.

They said they had fled because the rebels were winning. "The situation is very serious," one of the exiles was reported as saying. "The rebels seem to have the upper hand in the battle."

The rebels later claimed that they controlled nearly all of Mogadishu and appealed to the president's forces to surrender. A statement from the Rome office of the USC said fighting was going on around the international airport, still held by government forces, and an underground bunker where it said that the president was holding out. The rest of the city was in rebel hands, it added.

Guerrillas of a smaller opposition group, the Somali Patriotic Movement, are also reported to be closing in on the capital from the south. However, it is still not possible to say which side has the upper hand. One indication is that state-run radio, which had kept broadcasting since fighting erupted, went off the air on Saturday and was not

Sari-wearers demand the privilege of the dhoti

From CHRISTOPHER THOMAS IN DELHI

DEVI Lal, the deputy prime minister of India, has ordered government-run hotels to give a discount of a half to anyone wearing a dhoti, the garb of rural peasants. There is a snag: women do not wear dhotis.

His plan to make hotels accessible to the rural masses has upset the increasingly politically conscious female population. Women members of the Rajiya Sabha (upper house) demanded to know why unaccompanied women should not also be entitled to a discount, so long as they qualified as being "rural".

Mr Lal regards himself as the only authentic voice of India's rural poor. He holds the portfolio for tourism, and says he is determined to fight elitism in the tourist trade. He said any dhoti-clad person arriving at a government hotel would be able to claim the discount on Thursday and Fridays in recognition of his rural - that is, poor - status. "Eighty per cent of the population is rural and they are afraid to enter a five-star

hotel. I want to change this."

To which Margaret Alva, a member of the Rajiya Sabha, retorted on the floor of the house: "What about saris? Saris are also an Indian garment. Why are you discriminating against women?"

Mr Lal, not the most sensitive or accommodating of politicians, replied: "Women will accompany the dhoti-clad men."

Women members of the Rajiya Sabha, hardly believing their ears, were momentarily stunned into silence. But suddenly Miss Alva and another member of the upper house, Miss Jayanti Natarajan, erupted in anger. "Why can't we go to hotels on our own?" Miss Natarajan demanded, before launching into a tirade against Mr Lal's attitude towards women. Mr Lal refused to be cowed. The former chief minister of the small northern state of Haryana said: "From Haryana we have sent women to parliament as MPs. I have only said that, unlike you, our women do not go out alone."

Miss Natarajan leapt to her

feet again, demanding that the Speaker order Mr Lal to sit down and stop talking.

The Speaker refused, and Mr Lal continued. "Rural women do not go out alone but only with dhoti and kurta-clad men," he said. "When our women become educated, they will also go out alone."

Half a dozen women MPs then marched from the benches to the well of the House and demanded an apology. Mr Lal gave one, after a fashion. "I only remarked that comparatively our women are still backward and do not go out alone, but if my remark has caused offence to my sisters I take it back."

● JAMMU: India ordered a maximum security alert along the Pakistan border in Kashmir, sending troop reinforcements to halt any infiltration by Muslim militants, official sources said. At least 1,000 army and Border Security Force personnel trained in snow warfare had been sent to border areas. (AFP)

ANC tries to seize initiative on reform

Johannesburg - The African National Congress, in an apparent attempt to wrest the political initiative from Pretoria, is calling for an all-party conference in May to pave the way for negotiations on a new constitution (Gavin Bell writes).

The proposal was drawn up by the ANC national executive on Friday and is expected to be announced formally by Nelson Mandela, its deputy president, at a press conference today.

The government has indicated that it wishes to arrange such a conference; thus the ANC move is seen as a manoeuvre to gain a measure of control of the reform process. The organisation insists that Pretoria, as one of the principal interested parties, cannot be allowed to supervise the transition to multiracial democracy.

Ershad charged

Dhaka - Police have laid charges against Hussain Mohammad Ershad, the ousted Bangladeshi president, for illegally possessing firearms. Other charges will be laid soon, a police officer said. (Reuters)

Soviet regrets

Seoul - Igor Rogachev, the deputy Soviet foreign minister, has expressed regret over the 1983 shooting down of a South Korean airliner by Soviet fighters that left 269 people dead, but denied any cover-up in the case. (AP)

India radar plan

Delhi - India hopes to build an airborne early warning radar system by 1993, the United News of India said. The project started in 1985 amid fears that Pakistan would acquire the Awacs radar system. (AFP)

Colony barred

Hong Kong - The British colony was excluded from an international environment conference in Geneva because of Peking's objections, reportedly on the grounds that it was a dependent territory. (Reuters)

Seagull culprit

Wellington - New Zealand city council workers believe they have found the culprit for a water contamination scare yesterday - a dead seagull.

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Spirit of a sad king haunts Laos

From JAMES PRINGLE IN LUANG PRABANG, LAOS

THE early-morning mist still hovers on the Mekong river in this serene former royal capital, temple bells ring in dozens of pagodas, and barefoot Buddhist monks with their begging bowls file past the king's palace to begin their rounds.

In the street, women kneel to spoon glutinous rice into the bowls. When the monks move on, the women stop to chat for a moment before turning to the tasks of the day.

It was a scene beloved by King Savang Vatthana of Laos, a patron of Buddhism, and a patriot who sometimes wept publicly as warring factions backed by North Vietnam and the United States brought death and fearful destruction to a once peaceful land. Once in the 1960s, during one of the country's rare moments of peace, a foreign tourist asked a simply dressed man at the Xieng Thong royal temple here some particulars of Buddhism. The man quietly explained - and it was only later that the tourist recognised him as the king, from his portrait on a banknote.

The king, though widely read and travelled, seemed to embody many of the quiet characteristics of the undemonstrative Lao. Educated in Paris, he had a penchant for Marcel Proust, and liked to quote from *Remembrance of Things Past*.

Nowadays, ask one of the women in the street here still carrying the wicker basket from which she has given rice to the monks, what happened to King Savang Vatthana, the last in a 600-year-old royal line. She will be silent for a while, then say in a quiet voice: "The king has gone to the north."

Gone to the north, is the Orwellian euphemism in Laos for having died during political re-education.

After the Pathet Lao took control of Laos following communist victories in Vietnam and Cambodia in 1975, the king, Queen Khamphoui and Crown Prince Vong Savang were left alone for a while. The king was even appointed a "special adviser" to the new communist regime.

But during anti-communist guerrilla activity after the communist

royal government in what were then called "seminars".

This was a seemingly harmless word - a kind of Lao version of Orwell's *Newspeak* - used to shield the harsh reality of life in a re-education camp at Viengsay in northeastern Houa Phan province. Apparently, the new regime was afraid the king would become a focal point of unrest.

When Kayson Phommvihane, now 70, prime minister and communist party secretary-general of the Lao People's Democratic Republic, went to France late in 1979 he was asked at a press conference what had happened to the king, a former constitutional monarch of whom no word had been heard for 12 years. "I can tell you the king died of natural causes," he said. "He was very old. It happens to all of us."

Mr Kayson's words were not reported in Laos, so officially people have never been told what happened to a man who once prophetically remarked to Prince Norodom Sihanouk, former head of state of neighbouring Cambodia: "Alas, I am doomed to be the last king of Laos." However, refugee reports said it was believed that the king - who, had he lived, would have been 83 now - died in 1981 and that the queen and crown prince did not survive either.

The reports, still unconfirmed, said the royal family did not receive proper food or medical care. "The king died of a broken heart," one Lao official told me here privately. Perhaps more strangely, the communists refurbished the king's residence and opened it to tourists.

We'd like you to attend a seminar up North.



takeover - a reminder of which came in bizarre fashion when Radio Vietnamese reported yesterday that 50 defectors from a 15-year-old anti-communist insurgency, including a colonel and women and children, surrendered to Laotian provincial officials, and renounced their impoverished life in the jungle - the king was taken in 1977 to join thousands of Lao officials and soldiers of the defunct

US 'rules out' use of nuclear and chemical weapons in Gulf



Schwarzkopf request for a nuclear blast rejected

WHILE Britons in Bahrain queued at the British Club yesterday to collect gas masks to protect them from possible Iraqi chemical attack, America has ruled out the use of nuclear or chemical weapons in a war with Iraq, according to reports in Washington.

The masks give 100 hours of protection and are being handed out by the British government to nationals working in Bahrain, Qatar, and the Eastern province of Saudi Arabia.

Experts believe there may be 400 or 500 nuclear weapons on board American warships and submarines in the Gulf region, including about a hundred nuclear-armed cruise missiles.

Publicly the administration has been deliberately equivocal about their possible use, in order to

maximise pressure on President Saddam Hussein. President Bush and Richard Cheney, the defence secretary, have spoken of an "absolutely overwhelming" American response, if Iraq tried to use chemical or biological weapons. But *The Washington Post* and *Newsweek*, quoting senior administration sources, said a decision had been taken not to use them.

Newsweek said that Mr Bush had rejected a request by General Norman Schwarzkopf, the American commander in the Gulf, for authorisation to explode a nuclear device high over Iraq to generate an electro-magnetic blast capable of disabling every electronic device in the country.

The Pentagon, the magazine added, had commissioned a report on the use of nuclear weapons to shorten a war. There was no

Fear of inflaming world and Arab opinion and alienating allies will prevent the United States from using weapons of mass destruction against Iraq, Martin Fletcher writes

immediate response from the administration.

The administration's stance is said to reflect its confidence in the superiority of conventional firepower, fear of inflaming world and Arab opinion and alienating allies, and reluctance to breach a 45-year taboo against using nuclear weapons and set a precedent that could be followed by states such as India, Pakistan or China.

America has promised repeatedly not to use nuclear weapons against states that do not possess them, and a *Newsweek*

poll indicated that 72 per cent of Americans oppose their use against Iraq.

One official told the *Post* that the idea of using nuclear or chemical weapons had "never been on the table". Another said there was no parallel with 1945, when President Truman bombed Japan to end the second world war because "the world is more complicated now and the consequences of using tactical [nuclear weapons] — some of which are unpredictable — outweigh their military utility". The

United States is believed to have agreed not to deploy nuclear weapons on Saudi soil, and some of its warships are said to have exchanged nuclear weapons for a greater number of conventional weapons.

In other developments, James Baker, the Secretary of State, has refused to rule out the possibility of meeting Saddam in a third country, perhaps Jordan, after his meeting tomorrow with Tariq Aziz, the Iraqi foreign minister.

On Sunday he ruled out going to Baghdad to meet the Iraqi leader face to face, but that night told American reporters flying with him to London: "The president said there will be no meeting in Baghdad. I am going to leave it right there." He added that America would "find it impossible to sign" a French proposal linking an

Iraqi withdrawal from Kuwait to a future Middle East peace conference.

He also indicated that not all the international troops deployed in Saudi Arabia may fight. While some nations were eager to fight, there were "varying degrees of commitment".

One of the main objectives of his nine-nation tour of Europe and the Middle East is to consult allies about the decision to go to war and ascertain which would commit their troops to combat and which would not.

A *Newsweek* survey indicated 61 per cent support for war with Iraq if it did not leave Kuwait and 29 per cent opposed, in line with other recent polls showing a small swing in support of Mr Bush's stand: 82 per cent said they believed war was likely.

Guerrilla threat to the West is underlined by Iraqi leader

FROM JOHN HOLLAND IN BAGHDAD

PRESIDENT Saddam Hussein has again raised the possibility of Arab guerrilla attacks on Western targets.

In a speech to army commanders broadcast by radio and television yesterday, he predicted a military battle throughout the Arab world against the West.

"The main thrust of the military battle may be Iraq, but the theatre of our operations includes every struggle and holy fighter whose hand can reach out to harm aggressors throughout the whole world," he told his army leadership on Sunday.

Iraq is meanwhile expected to invite James Baker, the US Secretary of State, to Baghdad during talks in Geneva tomorrow, despite Mr Baker's apparent refusal in advance of any such offer.

Some Iraqi officials were yesterday visibly distressed at the rejection of an offer which had been strongly hinted at, but not yet made. However, high-ranking Iraqi officials said Mr Baker was still welcome to meet President Saddam to state the American position, provided he did so "in a dignified manner" and was ready to discuss options and to listen to the president.

Sources in the office of one senior Iraqi minister said that the minister "practically jumped for joy" and shook his fists in triumph yesterday upon hearing a report — which later proved false — that Mr Baker had changed his mind and decided to come to Baghdad. The

minister was quoted as saying proudly, on hearing the news: "You see, you see."

When informed minutes later that the report was false and that there it was only a rumour that Mr Baker was considering leaving open the option of seeing Saddam in a third country, rumoured to be Jordan, the minister remarked how said the Americans were behaving "disgracefully".

An Iraqi official indicated that Iraq was not amenable to any third-country meeting between Saddam and Mr Baker. Mehdi Saadi, the Iraqi Speaker, told troops war was "more or less inevitable" and that it would be a prolonged and bloody conflict with "heavy losses and casualties because weapons of mass destruction will be used". America and its allies, Mr Saadi said, would be driven from the Middle East.

Mr Saadi did not indicate which side would use such weapons, or if he was referring to nuclear, chemical or biological weapons, but added: "We are going to use all available weapons we have because we are going to defend ourselves, and defending oneself is a principle of international law". War against Iraq "would not be like Vietnam". It would exact a much higher price. Also, a leading EC diplomat here confirmed that the EC leadership had reissued an invitation to Mr Aziz to meet them in Luxembourg on January 10. The official said that the community wanted to emphasise its desire to keep open a channel for dialogue with Iraq, regardless of the outcome of the Geneva talks.

Saddam's speech to his officers predicted victory, despite previous Arab failures in battles with enemies such as Israel. "One reason for the Arab nations' weakness is the failure through impotence because of a lack of faith," he said.

Western observers described the speech as "an act of naked defiance" only a week before the January 15 deadline for Iraq to leave Kuwait, and designed to show the West that if a peaceful solution is not found within the next week, that a military confrontation against Iraq will quickly lead to an all-out conflagration throughout the Arab world. A war alert existed not only in every Iraqi town, but in Algeria, Jordan, and other cities throughout the Arab world.

Sources here confirm that talks are under way in Washington about the possibility that James Baker will go to Geneva armed with evidence, including satellite pictures, to present to Mr Aziz showing in detail Iraqi troop movements, missile locations and Saddam's personal movements throughout the country.

Anthony Parson, page 9



Signs of dissent: a small group from the Americans for Peace demonstrate yesterday in front of the US embassy in Grosvenor Square, pressing their case for a peaceful solution in the Gulf conflict during the visit to London by James Baker, the Secretary of State. He is here for talks with Douglas Hurd, the foreign secretary

Defence ministry lays down law for war correspondents

By MELINDA WITTSTOCK, MEDIA CORRESPONDENT

NEWSPAPER correspondents sent to the Gulf to cover a war with Iraq face reporting restrictions as stringent as those imposed by the Ministry of Defence during the Falklands war.

Foreign editors, briefed by the MoD yesterday, were given a long, specific list of subjects that cannot be published without prior clearance. Nothing must be reported that could jeopardise the success of the British and allied effort or give any credence to enemy propaganda.

The rules, similar to those recently proposed by the Pentagon and attacked as unnecessarily restrictive by American newspaper editors, show a determination on the part of military commanders to avoid losing control of press and television coverage as they did during Vietnam.

Foreign editors at the meeting said they would live with the restrictions "grudgingly". But they said it would be much harder for the military to put a lid on coverage of a Gulf war than it was in the Falklands or during the American invasions of Panama and Grenada.

It is not yet clear what sanctions chosen foreign correspondents will face should they unwittingly or intentionally break any of the MoD rules. The ministry said it would depend whether it was a

genuine mistake, a matter of interpretation or blatant disregard. "Journalists in the front line must obey military orders and observe ground rules." Correspondents must sign an agreement in return for access.

War correspondents, who must remain with military escorts at all times, are restricted from reporting current, future or prospective military operations of British and allied forces; current operational orders; current or planned location, composition and functions of all military units; the logistics of all military operations; troop movements or operational tactics and techniques.

They cannot disclose the numbers of troops, ships, aircraft, artillery, tanks and supplies in the Gulf, nor may they identify military installations or specific locations by name. They are also prevented from revealing defensive measures or the state of readiness or operational capability of individual military units and formations. Reporting of casualties is also subject to extensive restrictions. No reports revealing loss, damage to, or attacks on any naval vessel or military aircraft are allowed.

Correspondents are also barred from revealing the extent of casualties sustained by any particular unit or formation, the

identity of casualties until they have appeared in official casualty lists, or the geographical area in which those killed in action were serving. The nature or extent of any damage to military capability must also not be reported.

The MoD rules prevent correspondents from revealing any deficiencies in enemy planning or equipment or any information indicating the success or failure of operations undertaken by Iraqis "infiltrated" into the UK or other allied countries.

Journalists must seek approval to cover intelligence activities in the UK; operations of enemy ground forces; details of enemy air attacks; enemy casualties or numbers captured; speculation about possible methods of attack by the Iraqis on the UK or its allies or details of the activities; and the interrogation, control, movement, location or identity of enemy prisoners of war or internees in the UK or elsewhere.

Foreign editors at yesterday's meeting said they were more concerned about getting their correspondents on one of two army frontline media "pools". The MoD said two newspaper journalists, one three-person television camera crew and one photographer would be allowed in each of four pools, the two others being navy and air force.

Israeli agenda for post-conflict talks

FROM RICHARD OWEN IN JERUSALEM

ISRAEL yesterday played down the likelihood of its getting involved in a Gulf war, and began to look beyond the expected conflict to Middle East peace talks.

In an attempt to set the agenda, Yitzhak Shamir, the prime minister, and David Levy, the foreign minister, said Israel was prepared for a "comprehensive peace process", but that this must be on the basis of direct talks with the Arab states. They remain opposed to an international peace conference.

One diplomat said: "Despite Israel's deep-seated dislike of link-

age between Kuwait and Palestine, it looks as if the Shamir government has concluded that some form of linkage is unavoidable. Israeli leaders are therefore trying to jump in first and ensure that any postwar settlement is to Israel's liking."

However, Mr Shamir told British MPs yesterday that it was impossible to hold talks with the Palestinians in the occupied territories "at a time when they are waiting so much for Saddam's victory and Israel's defeat". He also said that, if Iraq did strike against Israel, "Israel will react but the Israeli reaction will not harm the US-Arab coalition". Yitzhak Rabin, the former defence minister, told the BBC that Israel would weigh its response very carefully in the event of an Iraqi strike. He believed that an American-led attack on Iraq would in any case "reduce tremendously" Baghdad's ability to fire at Israel with ground-to-ground missiles.

Palestinian leaders predict that Arabs in the territories, who in previous Middle East wars have remained largely passive, would open a "second front" against Israel in the event of conflict with Iraq. Army sources said troops were ready to repress any unrest.

Most Israelis assume Iraq will be defeated, with or without their help. They also hope that any war can be confined to the Gulf, but fear Israel will become embroiled, especially if Saddam carries out his threat and strikes against Tel Aviv. Yesterday, some Israelis joined the queues of foreigners at Tel Aviv airport seeking flights out of the country. Most said they were taking "brief holidays" in Europe or the United States.

The Israeli mass-circulation *Yedioth Ahronot* yesterday compared the present lull to the "period of waiting" before the six-day war of 1967. "Then, as now, the situation appeared bleak," the newspaper said. "But the outcome was in our favour." The paper noted a general sense of calm among Israelis, attributing this to confidence in the country's leadership and armed forces.

Mr Shamir said that he would receive any Arab leader wanting to discuss peace, adding that Iraq itself could participate in "direct, serious talks". Diplomats said America was unlikely to take this up, knowing all Arab states insist on an international conference.



Levy: pressing for direct talks with the Arab states

Britons' killers released

Khartoum — Five Palestinians who killed two British children, their parents and three other people in a bomb attack, were freed in Sudan after less than three years in jail. One of them said he would "do it again, everywhere... until the liberation of Palestine".

The five were originally convicted of assassination and sentenced to hang for the bombing of a hotel dining room and a club frequented by foreigners in May 1988. Sixteen months later the supreme court ruled they should be able to pay "blood money" to escape the gallows.

Belgians freed

Beirut — A Palestinian group led by Abu Nidal said yesterday that it had released four Belgian hostages, members of a family seized from a yacht in 1987. The four are Emmanuel Houtekins, Godelieve Kets, and their children Valerie and Laurent. (Reuters)

Plea for beds

Health unions last night called on the government to make available thousands of axed hospital beds to treat victims of a Gulf war. The call came as the London Emergency Bed Service admitted it was having difficulties finding beds for emergency patients.

Premiums rise

Commercial airlines are paying crippling insurance premiums to fly to the Middle East. The premium for a single landing in Tel Aviv, for example, has risen to £60,000, compared with £3,000 before Christmas to land anywhere in the area.

Room with views

Geneva — The Persian Room at the Geneva hotel where Swiss officials will sit during tomorrow's talks between the United States and Iraq has been renamed, in an apparent attempt to avoid embarrassing the Iraqis, the Swiss room. (Reuters)

Paris still hopes for a last-minute breakthrough

FROM PHILIP JACOBSON IN PARIS



Le Monde sums up the fate of the EC's latest peace move

FRENCH diplomatic efforts to avert war in the Gulf continued yesterday when President Mitterrand was briefed on the content of a long meeting in Baghdad between his confidant, Michel Vauzelle, and President Saddam Hussein. M Vauzelle is also understood to have reported back on the outcome of his subsequent visit to Tunis, where it is believed he had talks with Yasser Arafat, the chairman of the Palestine Liberation Organisation.

Although the Elysée Palace would not comment on what was discussed, noting only that Roland Dumas, the foreign minister, was also present, French diplomatic sources continue to talk of the possibility of a last-minute breakthrough that might lead to negotiations with Baghdad.

There was speculation here that

a "French solution", which would guarantee that Iraq is not attacked should it begin to withdraw from Kuwait, may now be on the table, presumably linked to the tacit promise of an eventual international conference on the Palestinian problem and other broader Middle East issues.

Discreet to the last, M Vauzelle remains adamant that he went to Iraq in a private capacity. Nor has he yet said a word about what was discussed during his meeting with Saddam last Saturday. It is taken for granted in Paris that M Vauzelle spoke with the full authority of his president and that his mission was primarily aimed at convincing Saddam there will be no French troops in combat.

In the circumstances, today's visit to Paris by James Baker, the US Secretary of State, for talks with M Mitterrand has the makings of a prickly encounter.

underline this message and assess the extent to which it might attract radical Arab support.

Seen from Paris, this strategy is entirely consistent with France's unwavering belief that European Community governments must be seen to exhaust every possible means of avoiding conflict in the Gulf. Despite suspicion of French motives among allied governments, most notably Britain and the US, M Mitterrand has always said that if Iraq does not evacuate Kuwait completely, France is ready to fight.

As M Mitterrand is aware, public opinion here is firmly against involving French troops in combat. In the circumstances, today's visit to Paris by James Baker, the US Secretary of State, for talks with M Mitterrand has the makings of a prickly encounter.

America acts to stem panic as bank falls victim to recession

FROM SUSAN ELLICOTT IN WASHINGTON

THE Bank of New England opened its doors yesterday with a revamped name and a place in history guaranteed as the first large banking victim of America's latest recession. Like a soap powder in need of a marketing lift, the bank has the word "new" tacked on to its title, following a swift takeover at the weekend by federal regulators anxious to avert a crisis of confidence in the American banking system.

Last Friday the bank's holding company forecast a loss of up to \$450 million (£132 million) for the fourth quarter of last year, indicating pending insolvency. Hordes of depositors crammed into branches of the Northeast's biggest bank to withdraw about \$1 billion.

Worried the panic would spread to consumers in other regions, the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation stepped in with an immediate infusion of \$750 million and a decision to protect all deposits, even those exceeding \$100,000 and not automatically insured.

So far the rescue strategy seems to have worked. At the entrance to Boston's main branch of the former Bank of New England yesterday morning stood a mere dozen depositors unwilling to take any chances.

The collapse of Bank of New England Corporation, which controls subsidiaries in

Massachusetts, Connecticut and Maine, resulted mainly from falling property prices in the Northeast in the past year.

The estimated cost of its rescue — at least \$2.3 billion — is likely to be one of the most expensive in US history.

The bank's failure was largely expected, since the Northeast has borne the brunt of the recession so far. The federal government's move to rescue the high-profile bank will be scrutinised closely, since some economic policymakers have criticised the administration for showing inadequate concern for the country's economic performance in past months, as consumers have lost confidence and sharply cut back their spending.

Federal regulators are keen to calm consumers amid speculation that weakness in the overall American banking system could worsen an economic downturn predicted to last at least until this summer.

Concerns about the shaky banking infrastructure follow the collapse of the savings and loan institutions, America's nearest equivalent to building societies, because of soured property loans.

A bailing out of the institutions, signed into law two years ago and a potential political liability for President Bush, was originally designed to cost \$50 billion but is now

expected to cost at least twice that figure.

The downfall of the Bank of New England has also drawn attention to the White House's efforts in progress to reform the banking system, including expected tighter rules for banking federal deposit insurance and possible broader powers for banks wishing to expand into the securities industry.

Nicholas Brady, the US treasury secretary, is due to announce the administration's ideas for banking reforms later this month. Among the options is simplification of the regulatory structure to fuse the five agencies currently responsible for overseeing lending organisations.

Democrats in Congress, however, favour a more radical package that would prevent banks opening themselves to further risks by expanding in to new areas, such as securities.

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Christmas prayer: Armenian women celebrating the Russian Orthodox Christmas during a church service in Yerevan. It is the first time that Christmas has been officially celebrated in the Soviet Union since the 1917 revolution (Bruce Clark writes

from Moscow). Festivities began on Sunday and the Russian Patriarch, Aleksii II, yesterday hailed the reopening of thousands of church buildings all over Russia as well as the dramatic revival in religious education. His message was qualified by his assertion

that sectarian conflicts, particularly in the Ukraine, were continuing to cause the Church problems. In a message that was read to believers at all Christmas services, the Russian prelate warmly welcomed the emergence of a "genuinely democratic state".

Tyminski slander case is dropped

From REUTERS IN WARSAW

PROSECUTORS yesterday halted a criminal slander investigation against the unsuccessful presidential candidate, Stanislaw Tyminski, after he said he was ready to apologise for calling Poland's former prime minister a traitor.

Mr Tyminski, an emigré millionaire, threw the presidential election campaign into turmoil in November when he accused Tadeusz Mazowiecki, then prime minister, of betraying Poland by selling top companies to foreigners on the cheap.

Authorities in the southern province of Nowy Sacz, where Mr Tyminski first made the accusation, began investigating him for suspected criminal slander, which carries a maximum eight years in jail. But the prosecutor, Marek Eilmes, said the investigation was being dropped because Mr Tyminski attacked Mr Mazowiecki as a rival candidate, not a holder of state office.

However, Mr Tyminski could still face lesser slander charges carrying a prison term of up to two years.

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US fears arms treaty at risk

FROM MARTIN FLETCHER IN WASHINGTON

SENIOR American officials are less than certain that the Soviet Union will rectify apparently serious violations of November's treaty to cut conventional forces in Europe, and say that failure to do so could jeopardise the first pact to cut strategic nuclear arsenals which President Bush and President Gorbachev hope to sign next month.

Unless Washington's complaints are addressed by February 17, 90 days from when the Conventional Forces in Europe (CFE) treaty was signed in Paris, the administration would not submit it to the Senate for ratification. If Moscow were seen to be breaking conventional forces agreements, the Senate would very likely refuse to ratify the Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty, the officials predicted. One said: "In a climate in which you made a decision not to go ahead with the CFE treaty, on the ground that the Soviets have not provided satisfaction on certain issues, I don't see how you could compartmentalise the two."

More generally, there is concern in Washington that



Shevardnadze: departure is a blow to America

political turmoil and the resurgence of conservatives and military hardliners in Moscow could stall the momentum towards superpower disarmament built up over the past half-decade years, despite assurances given in good faith by President Gorbachev.

Edward Shevardnadze's resignation as Soviet foreign minister last month was a particular blow as he was willing to force compromises from military hardliners to obtain agreements. When he goes, America will be less sure of exactly with whom it is negotiating, and fears that disarmament may slip down Moscow's agenda as its domestic problems mount.

A year ago, Washington was confidently predicting that a confidence-building "open skies" agreement, permitting unrestricted aerial inspection, was imminent, but even that has foundered, at least for the time being, in the face of what one source close to the administration called "Soviet intransigence". The obstacles were ones of "context, not content", he said. Disarmament was becoming a question "of getting decisions out of a bureaucracy that's not so interested in giving them".

James Baker, the American Secretary of State, complained to Mr Shevardnadze in Houston, Texas, last month that Moscow had declared at least 20,000 fewer weapons than it really has in the region covered by the CFE treaty, had mislabelled others, had transferred still more to different parts of the country instead of destroying them, and had converted army troops into naval infantry units which are exempt from the conventional forces pact. Mr Shevardnadze had promised that he would consider the complaints.

Jail population soars in land of the free

FROM JAMES BONE IN NEW YORK

AMERICA jails a bigger proportion of its population than any other nation and incarcerates black males at four times the rate of South Africa, a study has found.

With more than a million people under lock and key, America imprisons 426 people for every 100,000 of its population, easily beating the South next two countries, South Africa (333 per 100,000) and the Soviet Union (268 per 100,000). Britain, with a rate of 97 per 100,000, is ranked tenth in the study, prepared by a group called The Sentencing Project. Northern Ireland, rated separately, came sixth, with 120 per 100,000, and Hong Kong seventh with 118 per 100,000. Of every 100,000 black men in America, 3,109 are behind bars, compared with 729 in South Africa. Of the million American prisoners, 455,000 are black.

Marc Mauer, author of the

report, said the war on drugs had been a big contributing factor to the increasing number of black prisoners. Nearly 41 per cent of those arrested on drugs charges in 1989 were black. The effect of the drug-war policy "has been to lock up young black men", he said.

The study coincided with a report that last year, for the first time, more than half of all American murder victims were black. The proportion of black murder victims edged up from 40 per cent to 45 per cent in the early and mid-1980s, and jumped in 1988 to 48 per cent. In 1989, the last year for which full figures are available, 9,314 of the 18,954 murder victims, or just under half, were black.

John Conyers, a member of the Congressional Black Caucus, said that "draconian criminal justice policies" had failed. He called for a national commission of enquiry.

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Heading for a brick wall

Anthony Parsons

Since November it has become increasingly obvious that the Gulf crisis would come to a head early in 1991, that is, that sanctions would not be given time to work on their own. No-one who knows Iraq could have believed that such a tough Third World country, insured to hardship after eight years of war, would be mortally debilitated by sanctions in less than a year.

When President Bush decided to reinforce the troops in Saudi Arabia, transforming their potential from defensive to offensive, a fresh phase in the crisis opened. Presumably the president calculated that the slow attrition of sanctions would allow time for serious opposition to his policies to build up within America, that over several months the ransacking of Kuwait would leave only a phantom state to be liberated, and that as time wore on, the danger of a fudged "Arab solution", partially rewarding Saddam Hussein for his aggression, would become acute.

Pressure on the accelerator was stepped up with the acceptance on November 29 of Security Council resolution 678 authorising "all necessary means" if Iraq has not withdrawn from Kuwait by January 15. This resolution was a triumph for American diplomacy, evidence of Washington's influence in the post cold war world. Old UN hands such as myself found it hard to believe that the Soviet Union, China and the non-aligned members of the council would be prepared, in effect, to give America carte blanche to use force without the Security Council exercising any control over events. Two or three years ago, this would have been inconceivable. It is ironic that President Bush found the UN easier than Congress to bring on board.

However, the insertion of the January 15 deadline was a complication. The effect of the resolution would have been the same without it, and the consequences have been negative. It was the cause of the argument about dates which has culminated in the meeting between Tariq Aziz and James Baker in Geneva tomorrow, and it seems to have scuppered the possibility of a face-to-face meeting between Baker and Saddam Hussein. It also gave Saddam a breathing space to rally his people and his armed forces, to redouble his efforts to influence Arab public opinion and divide the anti-Iraq coalition. Finally, the date has been misinterpreted by public opinion worldwide as a kind of D-Day on which war will break out if the Iraqis have not withdrawn.

When the American reinforcements were announced, I put the chances of war at 50-50. After resolution 678 I moved to 6-4 on war. The rhetoric of the past few

days has shortened my odds to 7-4 on. Both sides have now boxed themselves in, and unless Congress throws a large spoke into the administration's wheel, I believe that, if Saddam has not begun a withdrawal by mid-January or at least announced his intention to withdraw, a military offensive will be launched by the end of February with the intention of driving his forces out of Kuwait before the holy month of Ramadan begins at the end of March.

Since resolution 678 was adopted, there has been a blizzard of diplomatic activity, rhetoric and advice to both sides. All this will continue - the current Franco-Iraqi contact is an example - right up to January 15 and probably beyond. In this context, the meeting of Tariq Aziz and Mr Baker is crucial. President Bush has spelt out the line that the Secretary of State will take: no compromise, Iraq must implement the Security Council resolutions unconditionally or face military catastrophe. If Tariq Aziz responds with the kind of heroic bombast with which Saddam regarded the Iraqi Army Day parade on Sunday, the meeting will be brief and the odds on war will shorten.

In practice, Tariq Aziz is bound to develop the view so frequently ventilated by Saddam that a solution to the Kuwaiti problem must be tied to a solution of the Palestine question - what has become known as "linkage". However, the present crisis ends, it is obvious that it will be followed by a major international effort to promote progress towards Arab-Israeli peace. America's Arab allies will demand this; so will the Europeans; so will the Soviet Union; so will all those who want to see arms control and disarmament in a region that has become saturated with high-technology hardware, including weapons of mass destruction. The problem, therefore, for the anti-Saddam coalition, which has vigorously repudiated "linkage", is how to reconcile the inevitability of such a development with the need to avoid giving Saddam credit for it.

I do not despair of a peaceful outcome. After the Tariq Aziz-Baker meeting, Saddam must realise that the choice between peace and war is his alone. He has made U-turns in the past when he realised he was heading at speed for a brick wall. For all the rhetorical bluster, it is always easier for a dictator who has absolute control over public media to change course than it is for a democratic leader who has to answer charges of inconsistency and weakness from parliament and public opinion.

Sir Anthony Parsons was British ambassador to the United Nations, 1979-82, and has been a diplomat in six Arab capitals.

Mary Dejevsky in Moscow cautions against the belief that Soviet dictatorship is imminent

Shrewd gambles in cause of reform

On Sunday night the church bells rang and Russians flocked to celebrate Orthodox Christmas. No police stood at the doors and no bully-boys lurked in the precincts to scare intending worshippers. Yesterday, Christmas Day, was a public holiday for the first time since the Bolshevik Revolution. The Russian parliament decreed the holiday and Mr Gorbachev, who in the past has annulled decisions he disliked, allowed it to stand.

For three weeks Moscow's main exhibition hall has been showing nearly 1,000 abstract paintings by artists whose work was proscribed by Khrushchev and his communist ideologues. A rose-tinted play about the last days of Tsar Nicholas II is still running, and for two months now *Gone with the Wind* has played to packed houses in Moscow's biggest cinema.

This increased religious and cultural freedom has been widely overlooked recently as it has been said that the Soviet Union is in the grip of a hardline backlash that threatens to become an all-out dictatorship of Mr Gorbachev, the KGB, the military or all three. It is also said that the last political event of 1990, the USSR Congress of People's Deputies, was a catastrophic defeat for democracy.

There is, however, another way of looking at Mr Shevardnadze's resignation. It can be seen not only as testimony to the strength of the hardliners but as the single act

which made dictatorship less likely and allowed Mr Gorbachev to emerge from 1990 with his position and policies largely intact. Similarly, Mr Gorbachev's other moves can be viewed as evidence less of creeping dictatorship than of his often astute, if far from gentle, efforts to avert it.

Some Soviet commentators have suggested that as the congress approached, Mr Gorbachev was presented with a straight choice by the armed forces and their political allies: "Either take action to stop the social and economic disintegration or we shall take it, with or without you." Certainly, the congress was preceded by ever more urgent calls for a state of emergency, martial law, a clampdown in the Baltic and other rebellious republics - and these calls were not without public support.

Since Shevardnadze's resignation, the pressure from the hardliners has eased, yet Mr Gorbachev is still in power and there is no dictatorship and no perceptible change in overall direction. Mr Gorbachev appears to have reassured his generals, many of whom held Mr Shevardnadze responsible for the arms cuts and territorial retreats which blighted their prospects, without making

significant political concessions. The concessions he has made are moves of clinical sharpness which, while offending western opinion and Baltic feeling in particular, remain strictly within the bounds of the law, as seen from Moscow. So far, they also reveal a shrewd calculation of what is possible without precipitating massive bloodshed.

The military, local Communist parties and the KGB all appear to have been given more room for action, within limits. The military have been authorised to round up draft dodgers and deserters. Baltic communists have been permitted to secure what they regard as their property. The KGB appears to have been given a longer leash, which may or may not help to explain the three murders and the wounding of a trouble-shooting television presenter. But the moment KGB accusations of western subversion threatened to damage East-West relations and jeopardise food aid, the leash was shortened and the KGB chief was made to explain himself.

Carefully circumscribed actions like these need not be seen as the advance of dictatorship, though they do not preclude it. Distasteful and reprehensible though they are, they may well be the price both of the continued religious and cultural freedom which Russians have now become used to, and of the economic reform without which the Soviet Union and its constituent parts will be colder, hungrier and more anarchic.

To Mr Gorbachev, a visionary who wants to save the unity of the Soviet Union while making it prosperous and democratic, the price will seem to be worth paying. As a man with a legalistic turn of mind, he may also see firmer enforcement of the law as desirable. The Soviet Union's western partners and allies will now have to think hard whether they agree.

The Soviet parliament reconvenes today after the New Year break. Its proceedings will show whether Mr Gorbachev's gamble is paying off. A tentative guess is that the hydra of threatened dictatorship has lost more than one of its heads, and that economic reform will now proceed at a pace more rapid than most would dare predict.

As a harbinger of that hope, Mr Gorbachev's liberal ally, Aleksandr Yakovlev, has re-emerged. "The prelude is over," he told a Moscow newspaper, "perestroika can begin."

Why the consumer is king

Jonathan Clark sees in the national mania for shopping the citizen's detailed, democratic control of his own life



John Bull in his element: a Cruikshank illustration of a London market in 1849

The Lawson boom may be dead, but it refuses to lie down. Agonisingly, with a grinding of gears and rending of metal, the highest real interest rates in living memory were required to slow down the enormous force of consumer demand. Why is the English shopper so resistant to restraint? Why will we not trim our expenditure to suit our means? Why are savings and investment so consistently squeezed by consumer spending?

We are used to thinking of England as one of the capitalist democracies. Yet neither capitalism (the priority of the producer) nor democracy (obedience to the majority) has flourished here in its pure form. Instead, we have consumer capitalism and parliamentary democracy. The English record their power in society less by how they vote than by how they spend: the high street of the English town on a Saturday afternoon is the great polling booth of the nation.

Where the newly-emancipated millions of eastern Europe take an inordinate delight in voting, the English derive their deepest satisfaction from shopping. Retail trade is more highly developed in our economy than in any other, but this means more than just consumer convenience: the individual exercises his most detailed and regular control over the world around him not by his contributions to politics, charity, the arts or voluntary societies, but by the activity of buying. Each pound spent is a vote cast, and a vote that is never wasted on a losing candidate.

Remarkably, consumerism is almost never resented: our pleasure in buying what we can afford is seldom spoilt by the enjoyment of our neighbour who buys something bigger and better. The egalitarian is scandalised by inequality and the democrat by disenfranchisement; but the successful shopper will always wait till the next sale.

Too many people called the English a nation of shopkeepers, from the American Samuel Adams and the Scot Adam Smith, for the credit to go to Napoleon. But it follows that England was as much a nation of shoppers. The debate

about whether capitalist values have been accepted in England misses this point: capitalism has been accepted here for centuries, but in the form of consumerism, not heroic production. Where Stalin's beaming Russians toured their tractor factories and Japanese workers begin their day with the company song, the English prefer to go window shopping. Giant emporia stuffed with consumer durables are, to the English, the best proof that all is well with their society.

This has long been so. Historians now qualify the sense in which England ever had an industrial revolution: massive factories or forges belching flame and smoke were the exception in most sectors of the economy. Much of the technology of early industrialisation was simple and cheap; it arrived gradually and patchily; national income grew slowly. It all seems very undramatic by comparison with what we learned at school.

But as scholars were abolishing

one sort of revolution, they were discovering another: the consumer revolution. Eighteenth-century Englishmen developed a quite new attitude to material possessions: fashion, luxury and emulation drove them to seek the latest, smartest, best. The economy responded by developing an unprecedentedly efficient system of retail distribution and a bewildering diversity of consumer goods to tempt and flatter the customer.

Most of the techniques of modern consumerism were pioneered in 18th-century England, not 20th-century America. Credit, discounts and travelling salesmen were commonplace. Aggressive selling met eager buying. Conspicuous consumption was child's play to Wedgwood, Chippendale and Sheraton: manufactured fashion with ease, newspapers were crammed with advertising.

It was this consumer revolution rather than factory production that produced a change in values and behaviour. "All classes enjoy

the accumulation of riches, luxury and pleasure," wrote a German visitor in 1791. The social hierarchy was softened and humanised by the ability of all ranks to imitate or share in the consumption patterns of the rich. More and more people - not just landowners - were given the impression that they had "a stake in the country". The confident consumer eventually sought to be a voter, and with so many novelties to spend his money on, he generally voted for the cheap government and low taxes that were a hallmark of Victorian England. Adam Smith refined his remark: England was "a nation that is governed by shopkeepers".

The term "consumption" ceased to be pejorative in the 1690s ("capitalism" did not arrive, as a word, until the 1850s). The "market" ceased to mean a

collection of local stallholders and became a national abstraction. Increasingly from the late 17th century the English regarded consumer demand, not state-directed production, as the engine of economic growth.

"Consumption is the sole end and purpose of all production," wrote Adam Smith in *The Wealth of Nations*. "The interest of the producer ought to be attended to, only so far as it may be necessary for promoting that of the consumer." Even today, not many societies would agree.

Paradoxically the factory, when it came, was often condemned aesthetically by the very men who consumed the products of the new industry with most relish and least conscience. By being offered capitalism as consumerism, the English were enabled to reject capitalism as industry: those cultural pundits who profited most from the workshop of the world were also those who were most zealous in their disdain for the grubby business of making things.

So England loaded the dice in its economy. Firms flourish best that boast "The customer is always right", the rival philosophy of *caveat emptor* is generally left untranslated. Keynesian economics was the distillation of this ancient attitude: demand was everything. Only recently have economics textbooks shifted their emphasis to the supply side - but the dominance of the consumer is not easily dislodged.

Meanwhile, consumerism still offers a better key to our political problems than any other. Interest rates, inflation, and real disposable incomes are still the best predictors of a government's popularity. "You've never had it so good" can be mocked, but not denied. The sovereignty of the consumer is an insight that increasingly holds good around the world. Russians may be content without the democracy they never had, but if glasnost and perestroika fail to fill the shelves, ideological rectitude on production can do little for Gorbachev. Or, we might add, for Mr Major.

The author is a fellow of All Souls College, Oxford.

...and moreover

ALAN COREN

You have seen *Twelfth Night*, and you therefore know that the whirligig of time brings in his revenges. I say therefore, but you knew it anyway, because you have been through more *Twelfth Nights* than you care to remember; it is just that Shakespeare put it rather better than you could. He was good at that. He was so good that it is quite possible that when the resonant trove rang across the stalls, you nudged your companion and whispered: "He put his finger right on it, there! That is the top and bottom of *Twelfth Night*, and no mistake. That is obviously why he called it *Twelfth Night*."

You were close enough. He in fact called it *Twelfth Night* because, then, January 6 was the night when great houses threw great binges wherein the domestic hierarchy was turned topsy-turvy, and through the temporary agency of a Lord of Misrule appointed from among the servants, chaos was allowed free rein. The fun started with everyone running around disguised as everyone else and sloshing one another with pig's bladders, from which things went from bad to the point where they cannot be reported in a modern newspaper, lest the butler happen to spot them while ironing it and get ideas likely to cause a breach of the peace. For the present age is sexually less flexible than Shakespeare's and may start asking awkward questions when familiar lipstick turns up on the footman's doublet and people come down to breakfast in odd socks. Which is why, not wishing to turn our backs totally upon the tradition - we have substituted an inanimate object for the Lord of Misrule, thereby lowering the moral risks, but losing some of the chaos.

The inanimate object is called a Christmas tree; it mounts the whirligig of time on Christmas Eve, and when the whirligig brings it round to January 6, it exacts its revenge. It runs from servant to master, it takes over the great house, and, by night-fall, it sees to it that those whom it has loosed and meekly served for 12 jolly days shall be left in gibbering, anaphylactic shock. Mind you, to be fair to ours

than I should currently prefer, it did give early warning of its vindictive streak. Readers who had nothing better to do on December 21 than hang around newspaper corners may recall my telling them how the 10th thing had burst its bonds on the car trip home, and was retrussed with police string after they had stopped what appeared to be a Norwegian fir galloping through Hampstead with a man in it. It could be retrussed, then, because it was springy, it could be carried indoors because the binding made it 3 ft in diameter. Unbound, it was 8 ft, and when, having left it for a week, we returned from France on Sunday, we found that rigor mortis had set in and it could not be retrussed at all. Not only skeletal and waist-deep in its own brown detritus, it was stiff as a brick. We do not have 8 ft doorways. It would have to be sawn up.

Misrule began. As in a horror film, the corpse retained some manic and malicious vitality; when, impatient as any murderer, I tugged at its jewellery - its lights, its baubles, its tinsel, its little Santas and fairies - it twitched and fell, measuring its length in the hall, spilling a hundredweight of earth from its tub, and spewing two pictures from the wall. Forensic scientists would make a meal of this, I thought, even as I took the hack saw to its supine limbs. A horrible business: we had sung and drunk beside it, we had exchanged gifts and greetings of goodwill, we had crept past it to soft beds while it continued selflessly to twinkle through its working nights, exuding pine and cheer, and now I was sawing its arms off. Do murderers feel such pangs? Is the revenge of corpses always so complex?

It would not be disposed of. It would not burn on the bonfire, only smoulder. I wondered what that smell was, said my neighbour, two eyes above the dark fence. I felt the ozone layer fizzle. I went back into the hall to shovel earth. That rug's had it, said my wife.

On Monday, the picture-framer said: say sixty quid, plus VAT. The man in the Hoover shop said what is it, needles in the works again?

Giving Paine a little pull

Tom Paine may have changed world history through his words and his French and American revolutions, but his fame does not yet appear to have reached his own backyard of Islington, north London. The 200th anniversary in March of the publication of *The Rights of Man* has failed to inspire drinkers at The Angel pub, where much of the book was written, to lower their pint and contemplate the hostelry's place in history.

The lack of honour afforded the prophet of revolution in his own pub has appalled the Thomas Paine Society (president, Michael Foot), which recently sent representatives to The Angel to ask how it planned to celebrate the bicentenary.

"There is no reference to Paine in the pub at all," says Eric Paine, the society's secretary, but no relation. "I sat there enraptured to feel I was in the room where he put his thoughts together, and then I asked people in the pub what they thought of his historic connections. Only two had heard of him, and neither realised he wrote the first part of *The Rights of Man* there. I told the management they should get their skates on and put up a plaque or something before the anniversary on March 13."

Australian Nola Wood, who took over as landlady last month, admits: "Until the people from the society dropped in, we had no idea who Thomas Paine was. But we are quite interested in having something here to commemorate him." A new cocktail, perhaps.

After mature consideration, the mayor of the 18th arrondissement in Paris has refused to register the name favoured by the parents of a boy born on Christmas Eve. The couple, devout Muslims from Senegal, had plumped for Saddam Hussein, but with French troops among the anti-Iraqi forces branding themselves for war, the name was the threat of a Gallie officialdom, which insisted on Saddam alone.

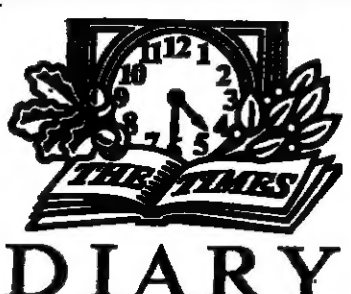
Open sesame

A MP's security pass can be a useful thing, as Kevin McNamara, Labour spokesman on Northern Ireland, has just discovered. Returning home after a family holiday in Switzerland, he watched in dismay as he realised that the suitcase disappearing through the security screening at Geneva airport contained his passport.

He asked for the case to be retrieved but was told that would mean waiting until the aircraft's luggage hold had been filled and then unloading it all, thus delaying the flight by some hours. More in desperation than hope, McNamara offered the passport authorities his House of Commons identity card. "It was just like the American Express advertisement," he says. "They told me 'That will do nicely' and waved me through. I never knew we MPs had so much influence."

Flower power

The calm of the nation's hazy borders is about to be disturbed as the flower of democracy unusually rears its head in the world of Britain's leading gardeners. Amid accus-



tions of plotting in the potting sheds, Norwich nurseryman John Metcalf has forced an almost unprecedented election next month for the Royal Horticultural Society's ruling council. The RHS, he says, is riddled with "undemocratic and archaic practices" and requires root-and-branch overhaul. "I have been a member of the RHS for at least 15 years, and it's

I think he's a plant.



very rare for it to hold a proper election. They usually go through on the nod," says Metcalf, who has fought a long-running battle with the gardening establishment over such issues as the rights of the Hardy Plant Society. In what he admits is a rather forlorn appeal to the society's 130,000 members, only 2 per cent of whom voted last

year, he is standing for election alongside three candidates proposed by the RHS president, Robin Herbert.

In an unofficial manifesto, Metcalf describes himself as "a thorn in the side of the Chelsea Set". And only slightly mixing his metaphors, he adds: "Sometimes one needs a little grit in the compost to improve aeration."

The musical *Children of Eden* opens tonight at London's Prince Edward Theatre, more than a week early. The opening was originally scheduled for January 16, but then came the UN deadline for Iraq to leave Kuwait. "The basic message is love not hate, and the second part is based on Noah's Ark and warns that the waters might once again engulf us," says co-producer Patricia Macnaughton. "I am sure it was the right decision to bring it forward. It seemed madness to clash with the opening of a war."

Aye aye!

Gerald Durrell had a particularly happy 66th birthday yesterday. He has just returned from an expedition to Madagascar with six examples of a rare lemur, the aye aye, previously thought to be extinct. He will try to breed from them at Jersey Zoo, which he founded, and release their offspring into the wild.

During his three months in Madagascar, Durrell also observed such rare species as the mad ploughshare tortoise and the giant jumping rat. These, and the aye aye, will form the basis of his next book and a television documentary to be screened in March. After that Durrell's plans include a book that will draw on memories

of his childhood in India - with the help of diary readers.

Just before he left for Madagascar, Durrell appealed through this column for examples of traditional British nursery rhymes translated into Hindi, which he wishes to feature in the book. The Diary has just handed over about a dozen, including Little Jack Horner, Humpty Dumpty and Three Blind Mice. "I wasn't sure I would get any replies at all and I certainly did not expect so many," says Durrell. "I am delighted."

Not any old iron

Work begins this week on replacing the ornamental ironwork in Hyde Park, removed at Herbert Morrison's behest 50 years ago with the intention - the outcome is in doubt - of turning it into bombs and shells.

The first section to be restored is along the world's most famous urban boulevard, Rotten Row, which was laid in the winter of 1689-90 to ease William III's journeys from Westminster to his new residence at Nottingham House, now Kensington Palace. It was the first lamplit road in Britain, with lanterns hung from trees to guide the royal entourage. When the work is complete, says Neil Mitchell, chairman of the Rotten Row Restoration Committee, the Row will be graced with cast-iron columns and 20 gas lights - on which, for £200, members of the public can have their names embossed. The Duke of Wellington, who will be able to see his new ironwork from his top-floor flat in Apsley House, has already signed up, along with a bevy of West End shops.



NO DIMES TO SPARE

HAITI'S SECOND VICTORY

UNIVERSITY OF LIFE

The prime minister may indeed sound rather like a speak-your-weight machine. But a voice which betrays no trace of Oxbridge may be a positive political asset. For university graduates in the Commons who are worried by this, a correspondence course in wearing learning lightly might now be advisable.

Letters to the editor should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be sent to a fax number - (071) 782 5046.



COURT CIRCULAR

KENSINGTON PALACE
January 7: The Princess Margaret, Countess of Snowdon was present this evening at a Gala performance by the American Brothers Circus held in the Hippodrome Big Top, Battersea Park, in aid of London Lighthouse and the National Children's Home.

YORK HOUSE
JAMES'S PALACE
January 7: The Duke of Kent, President of the Engineering Council, this evening attended a Reception dinner for the Chairman, Sir William Barlow, at the Army and Navy Club, Pall Mall, SW1.

Commander Roger Walker, RN, was in attendance.

Birthdays today

Miss Shirley Bassey, singer, 54; Mr David Bowie, singer and actor, 44; Canon J.S. Boys Smith, former vice-chancellor of Cambridge University, 90; Mr S.G. Cameron, former chairman, Gallaher, 67; Sir Maxwell Eastwell, former chairman, Menzies Development Committee, 81; Mr Joe Foweraker, director and producer, 79; Professor Stephen Hawking, CBE, theoretical physicist, 49; Major-General J.R. Holden, 77; Lord Hollender, 77; the Right Rev E.G. Knapp-Fisher, former Archdeacon of Westminster, 76; Air Commodore Joan Metcalfe, former director, RAF Nursing Services, 68; Mr Ron Moody, actor, 67; Miss L.M. Read, MBE, 52; Professor W.B. Reddaway, economist, 78; Miss Galina Ulanova, prima ballerina, 81; Mr G.H. Whalen, managing director, Peugeot Talbot Motor Company, 55; Mr Michael Wheeler, QC, 76.

Dinner

Cardiff Business Club
The President of the Cardiff Business Club, Sir Idwal Pugh, HM Lord Lieutenant of the South Glamorgan, Captain Norman Lloyd Edwards, the High Sheriff of South Glamorgan, Mr Brian K. Thomas, the Right Hon the Lord Mayor of Cardiff, Councillor John Smith, the Chairman of South Glamorgan County Council, County Councillor William Bowen and the Hon Recorder of the City of Cardiff, Judge Michael Gibson, were present at a dinner held by the club at the Royal Hotel, Cardiff, last night. The guest speaker was the Right Hon Lord Jakobovits, Chief Rabbi, and Mr Cecil H. Rapport presided.

Clockmakers' Company

The following have been elected officers of the Clockmakers' Company for the ensuing year: Master, Mr M.J. Senior; Senior Warden, Mr C.L. Clarke; Junior Warden, Mr J.R. Cope; Junior Warden, Mr J.N.W. Smith.

Robin Wainwright

A memorial service for Robin Wainwright will be held in Cirencester Parish Church, on Wednesday, January 23, at noon. No mourning.

Anniversaries

BIRTHS: Alfred Wallace, naturalist, 1823; Wilkie Collins, novelist, 1824; Hans von Bulow, pianist and conductor, Dresden, 1830; John Curtin, prime minister of Australia, 1941-45, 1945; Victoria, 1883; Solomon Mandanakis, prime minister of Sri Lanka 1956-59, Colombo, 1899; Elvis Presley, Tupelo, Mississippi, 1935.

DEATHS: Edgar, king of Scotland 1097-1107, Dundee, 1107; Lord Hollender, 77; the Right Rev E.G. Knapp-Fisher, former Archdeacon of Westminster, 76; Air Commodore Joan Metcalfe, former director, RAF Nursing Services, 68; Mr Ron Moody, actor, 67; Miss L.M. Read, MBE, 52; Professor W.B. Reddaway, economist, 78; Miss Galina Ulanova, prima ballerina, 81; Mr G.H. Whalen, managing director, Peugeot Talbot Motor Company, 55; Mr Michael Wheeler, QC, 76.

Appointments

Latest appointments include: Lord Campbell of Croy to be President of the Anglo-Austrian Society, in succession to the late Lord Caccia; Mr John Arkell, Headmaster of Wrekin College, to be Headmaster of Gresham's School, Holt; He succeeds Mr Hugh Wilson, who has been appointed Chief Master of King Edward's School, Birmingham, in September.

Marriage

Mr C. Winer and Miss F.M.T. Leroy. The marriage took place on December 29, 1990, between Cyril Winer, formerly of Newcastle Emlyn, Dyfed, and Francoise Marie Therese Leroy, of Paris, in Passy, France, where they now live.

Today's royal engagement

Prince Edward will attend the opening of the Versace Theatre exhibition at the Royal College of Art at 7.40 and then attend a dinner given by the Italian Ambassador at his residence.

OBITUARIES

RICHARD MAIBAUM

Richard Maibaum, American screenwriter of James Bond films, has died aged 81 at St John's Medical Center, Santa Monica, California. He was born in 1909.

RICHARD Maibaum started his professional life as an actor and then began writing scripts for Hollywood in the 1930s. In a 40-year career he earned credits for pictures ranging from the early, gritty thriller *They Gave Him a Gun* (1937), through scripts for vehicles such as Elliott Nugent's 1949 version of Scott Fitzgerald's *The Great Gatsby* (which, improbably and somewhat ineffectively, starred Alan Ladd) to the massively popular James Bond films where he really found his métier as a scriptwriter.

Maibaum was born in New York City and graduated from the University of Iowa. He began in the entertainment industry as an actor with the Shakespearean Repertory Theatre in New York in 1933. He started writing for the stage the same year, and his plays

included *The Tree, Sweet Mystery of Life* and *See My Lawyer*. In the mid-1930s he caught the train to Hollywood with his bride where he began writing scripts such as *Ten Gentlemen from West Point*, *Gold Diggers of 1937*, *The Bad Man of Brinsford*, *The Amazing Mr. Williams* and *I Wanted Wings*.

After service in the US army in the second world war with the Combat Film Division, he went to Paramount Pictures as a producer-writer and worked on several Alan Ladd features besides *The Great Gatsby*. He moved to England in the late 1950s with producer Albert (Cubby) Broccoli's Warwick films. There, Broccoli gave him a couple of the phenomenally successful Fleming spy novels to read.

This began a highly successful collaboration whose immediate result was the first Bond movie, *Dr No*, made in Jamaica with Sean Connery and Ursula Andress and released in 1962. Maibaum's approach to Ian Fleming's hero lightened the somewhat

self-consciously earnest (and rather cruel) secret agent of the books, to make a feature of the well-known lines involving which audiences came to expect in every sequel. In the mouth of Sean Connery, the Maibaum scripts very much set the tone for all later Bond films, notwithstanding the fact that the Bond actor changed several times over the years.

The Broccoli-Maibaum partnership ran all the way through to *Licence to Kill* in 1989. Between 1962 and that date were *From Russia With Love* (perhaps the best of all the Bond films), *Goldfinger*, *Thunderball*, *On Her Majesty's Secret Service*, *For Your Eyes Only* and many more. Maibaum wrote scripts for three different James Bonds: those of Sean Connery, George Lazenby (a one-off appearance in *On Her Majesty's Secret Service*) and Roger Moore.

Maibaum enjoyed injecting humour into Ian Fleming's straightforward thriller, but

admitted being increasingly hard pressed to create in film after film the additional exotic adventures that Bond audiences came to expect of their hero. As time went on the movies tended to become the slaves of gadgetry and the character of Bond with his laid-back payoff lines was increasingly submerged under technology or plagued by outlandish freaks such as monstrous men with iron teeth.

Changing times also dictated Bond's behaviour. Maibaum recalled in an interview on television a few years ago. Where once the intrepid adventurer had to go to bed with at least three women per picture, certain restraints were thought to be necessary in an age which seemed to be reaping the rewards of promiscuity. "You can't have him behaving in an immoral way all around the place anymore in the era of AIDS," Bond's scriptwriter reflected.

He leaves his widow, Sylvia, and two sons.

JOAN PRESTON



Joan Preston, the West End theatre executive who was personal assistant to the impresario Harold Fielding for 28 years, died on December 20 at the age of 79. She was born on February 2, 1911.

THERE can be few performers of consequence who worked on the London stage during the past 50 years without encountering or realising the importance of Joan Preston. Reserved, undemonstrative and low-key in her personal life, she possessed extraordinary influence in professional matters, and her experience and expertise was a vital factor in some of the greatest West End hits of the century, in the careers of several illustrious impresarios and also of many celebrated stars.

Born in Birmingham, she began her career there, working at the Alexandra theatre for the Midlands impresario, Leon Salberg. After stage-managing several tours for Sir Emile Littler, she joined the American-born impresario Gilbert Miller, for the London productions of Laurence Housman's *Victoria Regina* at the Lyric theatre in 1937, and of Clare Boothe Luce's *The Women* at the Lyric in 1939. In the cast of the former of these was the actor Owen Griffith with whom she made the happiest of marriages in 1939.

After the war, during which she worked in the Telecommunications Research Establishment at Swange and

Malvern, she returned to the West End theatre to stage-manage Leslie Henson's musical *Bob's Your Uncle* at the Saville. In September 1954, she was a production executive for Terence Rattigan's play *Separate Tables* at the St James's theatre, going with it to New York in 1956 for the Broadway production at the Music Box theatre.

The turning point in her career came in 1958 when she joined the mercurial Harold Fielding for his spectacular production of Rodgers and Hammerstein's *Cinderella* at the London Coliseum, starring Tommy Steele with whom she was to work on five subsequent Fielding productions: *Half a Sixpence* (1963-4), *Meet Me in London*

(1971), *The Tommy Steele Show* (1973), *Hans Andersen* (1974 and 1977) and *Singing in the Rain* (1984).

She remained with Fielding for 28 years, and he came to depend upon her utterly. A showman of undoubted genius, he was often stubborn and impatient, and she proved herself adept at smoothing the feathers occasionally ruffled by his volatile temperament. Noel Coward, with whom she worked closely on his musical *Sail Away* at the Savoy in 1962, had the highest regard for her, as also had Dame Anna Neagle, with whom she formed the happiest association during the record-breaking run of *Charlie Girl* from 1965 until 1971. Not every star was as amenable, and there were notable occasions when, in the face of prima donna unreasonableness, Miss Preston had to exercise supreme control and tact.

As Fielding's extravaganzas became ever more spectacular, Joan Preston's precision and meticulous attention to detail became vital factors in productions such as *Show Boat*, *Sweet Charity*, and *The Great Waltz*. She retired in 1986, at the age of 75, and was saddened at the failure of *Ziegfeld* in 1988.

Owen Griffith died last June, a year after they had celebrated their golden wedding anniversary. Without him, she seemed, for the first time in her long and disciplined life, to falter and lose her way. They had no children.

PRINCE MERID BEYENE

Prince Merid Beyene, grandson of the former Emperor Haile Selassie of Ethiopia, and a political refugee in England, died in London on New Year's Eve aged 60. He was born in May 1930.

MERID Beyene was the son of Princess Romanworq, the eldest daughter of the Negus who was married to Dedjazmach Beyene Merid, governor-general of Bale province, himself killed in action in 1935 defending Ethiopia in the Italian invasion. The young Merid with his mother and two brothers were taken to Italy as hostages and interned on the island of Azimara. When Italy entered the second world war the family was transferred to Turin where Princess Romanworq and one of her sons died of tuberculosis. The two remaining boys were then looked after by the Roman Catholic church on the orders of Pope Pius XII.

Released after the fall of Mussolini in 1943, the two young princes were returned by the allies to Addis Ababa where they lived at their grandfather's court and were looked after by their aunt, Princess Tenagneworq, who became a mother figure to them. Merid found consolation at the royal palace among the wild animals kept by the Lion of Judah, and especially loved rearing cheetah cubs which, he said, were very difficult to house-train. To the end of his life, he enjoyed a mysterious relationship with cats.

After education at Teferi high school in Addis Ababa, Brighton College and Columbia University, New York, he

returned home and was appointed to his late father's position as governor-general of Bale province, a post he held for 20 years. Among the orders and decorations that he was given at this time were the Grand Cross of the Order of St Olaf (Norway), the Legion d'Honneur (France), and the Order of Homayoun (Iran).

Some months before the revolution of 1974, while engaged in his administrative duties, he was thrown by his horse, badly injuring his back which necessitated his despatch by air to Stoke Mandeville hospital where he spent a year paralysed in traction. Ironically, he broke his neck to save it. At the revolution which broke out in 1974, he was persecuted, some of his members were shot, most were imprisoned and many thousands of loyalists were executed by the revolutionary Dergue. Haile Selassie's death while under house arrest has never been satisfactorily explained. Merid's aunt, the Princess Tenagneworq, with other female members of the royal family, was only released in 1988 after 14 years in prison, after intervention by the European Community.

Merid Beyene was slight in stature and bore a startling resemblance to his grandfather the emperor. The plans would stop him in the streets of London. He lived modestly but happily in West London, battling against ill health, and entered hospital the day before Christmas which he had planned to spend with old friends.

GORDON BURROWS

Lucian Nethsingha writes:

AS SOMEONE who had known Gordon Burrows (obituary January 3) for over 40 years, may I be permitted to add a few lines about him?

It seemed to me that your fine obituary failed to mention one very important aspect, namely his life-long love of music, and in particular, of church music. During his long tenure at Trinity College, Kandy, Sri Lanka, he threw himself wholeheartedly into the development of music at that school. He was justly proud of the chapel choir, which was very good indeed by any standards.

Although I was a pupil at the "brother" school in Colombo (St Thomas College, Mount Lavinia), our two

schools met every year for a weekend of music, culminating in combined services in our respective chapels. Those were memorable occasions which he and I recalled with the greatest affection during the rest of his life.

For those of us who were privileged to take part, the impression he made on us was very considerable. The warmth of his personality, his humour, his gifts as a raconteur and his infectious enthusiasm for music were some of the indelible impressions left on all of us.

When my wife and I visited him just two days before he died, we could not fail to be impressed by the courage and the fortitude which he showed.

Forthcoming marriages

Mr D. Abbot and Miss A.M. Thompson. The engagement is announced between David, only son of Mrs Philip Stone, and Angela, eldest daughter of Mr and Mrs H.R.P. Thompson, of Rugby, Warwickshire.

Mr D.S. Alcock and Miss J.M.A. Percy. The engagement is announced between David, eldest son of Mr and Mrs R. Alcock, of Heveringham, Cambridgeshire, and Julia, younger daughter of Mr and Mrs Adrian Percy, of Wadhurst, East Sussex.

Mr N.T. Baldwin and Miss J. Edgerley. The engagement is announced between Nigel, only son of Major and Mrs L. Baldwin, of Kingston, Surrey, and Joanne, younger daughter of Mr and Mrs J.N. Edgerley, of Leigh Hill Farm, Cobham, Surrey.

Mr G.A. Bayliss-Hollamby and Miss E.M. Title. The engagement is announced between Greg, second son of Mr and Mrs C.D. Hollamby, of Colehill, Buckinghamshire, and Emma, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs A.D.J. Title, of Virginia Water, Surrey.

Mr A. Bennett and Andi Aminah Ma'Mun. The engagement is announced between Anthony, younger son of Mr and Mrs John Bennett, of Witleyham, East Sussex, and Minette, daughter of the late Andi Ma'Mun and of Mrs Rifmilia Andi Ma'Mun, of Jakarta, Indonesia.

Mr C.F.D. Bwell and Miss C.M. Fowler. The engagement is announced between Charles Felix Dana, eldest son of Mr and Mrs P.E. Bwell, of Arundel, West Sussex, and Cynthia Mary, daughter of Mr L.C. Fowler, of Mobile, Alabama, and Mrs P.H. Thompson, of Phoenix, Arizona.

Mr G.R. Coombs and Miss J.L. Caussons. The engagement is announced between Guy, elder son of Mr and Mrs Thomas Coombs, of Sidbury, Devon, and Joan, only daughter of Mr and Mrs John Caussons, of East Heslerton, North Yorkshire.

Mr F.S.H. Elton and Miss R.F. Bain. The engagement is announced between Francis, son of His Honour John Elton and Mrs Elton, of Egham, Surrey, and Rosemary, daughter of Mr and Mrs Nigel Bain, of Great Gaddesden, Hertfordshire.

Mr S.L. Fraser and Miss P.A. Atkinson. The engagement is announced between Simon, son of Mr and Mrs Royce Fraser, of Perth, and Penny, daughter of Mr and Mrs Christopher Atkinson and Mrs Anne Atkinson, Barton-under-Needwood, Staffordshire.

Mr C.R.S. Graham and Miss J.M. Lindsay. The engagement is announced between Charles, son of Major and Mrs Stephen Graham, of Wokingham, Berkshire, and Jane, daughter of Lieutenant-Colonel and Mrs Stephen Lindsay, of Invermaird, Acharacle, Argyll.

Mr L.J.A. Harrison and Miss C.M. Page. The engagement is announced between Ivor, third son of Mr and Mrs R.C.G. Harrison, of Kensington, London, and Christina, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs F.M. Page, of Kirkcubright, Perthshire.

Mr J.G. Harvey and Miss J.E. Slee. The engagement is announced between Giles, younger son of Mr and Mrs D.R. Harvey, of Langwathby, Cumbria, and Ruth, younger daughter of Mr and Mrs E. Slee, of Penrith, Cumbria.

Mr L.E. Hogarth and Miss C.E. Farrow. The engagement is announced between Ian Edward, only son of Mr and Mrs E.A. Hogarth, of Torrisholme, Lancashire, and Claire Elizabeth, younger daughter of Mr and Mrs D.C. Farrow, of Oakfield, Great Coxwold, Oxfordshire.

Mr J.E. Ingle and Miss M.B. Lloyd. The engagement is announced between Jack, younger son of Mr and Mrs Roger Ingle, of Ingfield, Gifford, East Lothian, and Marina, daughter of Mr and Mrs Roger Lloyd, of Kensington, London.

Mr T.W.F. Jacobson and Miss J.M. Davies. The engagement is announced between Timothy William Francis, son of Mr and Mrs D.W. Jacobson, of East Bridgford, Nottinghamshire, and Joanna Helen, youngest daughter of Dr and Mrs G.E. Davies, of Llandaff, South Glamorgan.

Mr N.R.V. Jordan and Miss J.C. Corbett-Singleton. The engagement is announced between Nicholas Robert Vere, second son of Lieutenant-Colonel and Mrs H.R. Jordan, of Stourley, Somerset, and Jane Charlotte, daughter of Mr and Mrs J.C. Corbett-Singleton, of Chelsea, London, SW3.

Mr M.D. Kenyon-Slade and Miss R.B. Hagood. The engagement is announced between Mark, eldest son of Mr and Mrs D.J. Kenyon-Slade, of Escourt, South Africa, and Ruth, younger daughter of the late Rev J.S. and Mrs Hagood, of Bishopthorpe Palace, York.

Mr B.D.L. McCann and Miss M.D. Bergen. The engagement is announced between Brendan, a younger son of the late Hugh James McCann, former Irish Ambassador to France and the Court of St James's, and of Mrs Virginia McCann, of Foxrock, Dublin, and Margaret, younger daughter of Mr D. Thomas Bergen, of New York City, and of Mrs Sarah L. Bergen, of Kensington.

Mr J.E.J. Radcliffe and Miss D.C. Key. The engagement is announced between Julian, younger son of Mr and Mrs A.J. Radcliffe, of Hermitage, Newbury, Berkshire, and Deborah, daughter of Mr and Mrs T.H. Key, of Compton, Newbury, Berkshire.

Mr R.C. Reynell and Miss E.R. Cauty. The engagement is announced between Richard, only son of the late Mr A.C. Reynell, and Mrs L. Reynell, of New York, USA, and Elaine, only daughter of Mr and Mrs B.G.J. Cauty, of Government House, Anguilla.

Mr R.A. Rawlinson and Miss S. Sofer. The engagement is announced between Richard Anthony, eldest son of the late Sir Anthony Rawlinson, of Minchinhampton, Gloucestershire, and Sharon, daughter of Mr and Mrs J. Sofer, of Roehampton, London.

Mr J.F. Ross Stewart and Miss M.P. Stephenson. The engagement is announced between James, elder son of Mr and Mrs David Ross Stewart, and Margaret, daughter of Mr and Mrs Richard Stephenson, of Port Elizabeth, South Africa.

Mr S.E.C. Smith and Miss K. Walker. The engagement is announced between Simon, son of Mr and Mrs J. Smith, of Northwood, Middlesex, and Karen, daughter of Mr and Mrs A. Walker, of Ickham, Middlesex.

Mr B.H. Thresher, III and Miss J.P. Tammamoun Bakker. The engagement is announced between Holt, elder son of Dr B.H. Thresher, Jr, and the late M.P. Thresher, of Atlanta, Georgia, and Juliet, youngest daughter of Mr and Mrs J.P. Thresher, of Kensington, London. The marriage will take place on March 30, 1991, in Washington, DC.

Mr G.M. Webb and Miss V.J. Cassidy. The engagement is announced between Gerald, son of Mr and Mrs M.H. Webb, of Bentley Heath, Kent, and Vanessa, daughter of Captain and Mrs E.M.A. Cassidy, of Langton Matravers, Dorset.

School announcements

Benenden School
Term starts today at Benenden School. The school play, *The Royal Hunt of the Sun* by Peter Fisher, will be performed on February 7, 8 and 9. This term's founders' lecture, "Why be a Theologian?", will be given by Professor Rowan Williams, of Christ Church, Oxford, on March 1.

Chigwell School, Essex
Lent term starts today and ends on March 22. Performances of the sixth form play, *Whose Life is it Anyway?*, will be held on February 5 and 6, and performances of the middle school play, *Black Comedy*, will be on February 28 and March 1. The House Music Festival is on March 21. Harrold scholarship examinations will be held on January 26. Old Chigwellians who wish to attend the Shrove Tuesday Supper on February 12, should contact the headmaster's secretary.

Clifton College
Term begins today. Vanessa Bird, Worcester House, is head of school. Confirmation by the Bishop of Malmesbury will be on Sunday, March 10. A performance of *Drift's Corners* by Whittaker as her deputy. On Tuesday, March 12, the choir will be singing *Dream of Gerontius* with Oundle School, in Peterborough Cathedral. The school concert will be the Princess Alice Hall at 7.30 pm on Sunday, March 17. Scholarship examinations for 11+, 12+, 13+ and sixth form entry for September, 1991, will be held on Saturday, February 9. For further details please contact the headmistress's secretary on 0462 432100. Would all old girls please contact the new secretary of the Old Girls' Association, Sue Prince, at the college.

Edgill College, Devon
Term begins today and ends on Thursday, March 21. The entrance examination for girls aged 11 will be held on Friday, January 18. The sixth form science conference will be held on Friday, March 15, and the joint Edgill-Greenville College production of *Godspell* on March 18, 19 and 20. Sixth form scholarships have been awarded to Samantha Ayres (music), Rachel Loosemore, Rebecca Potts and Louisa Youlton and exhibitions to Janet Larby and Karen Soutter.

John Lyon School, Harrow
Term starts today and ends on March 27. A memorial concert for Mr G.V. Surtees, Headmaster 1968-1983, will be held on Saturday, March 23, at 7.30 pm, in Harrow School Speech Room. Tickets are available from the Headmaster's Secretary and proceeds will go to the British Heart Foundation.

The Royal School, Bath
Spring term begins today. Royal School on Wednesday, January 9, and will end on Tuesday, March 26. The Equal Opportunities Conference will take place on January 28-29. Suzi Radcliffe has finished her year as head of school, and has a place to read geography at Jesus College, Oxford. The new head of school is Clare Ward, and Kate Fere is deputy head of school.

St Dunstan's College
Lent term began on January 7 and ends on March 26, except for girls, who end on March 24. J.A.C. Shaw continues as head of school. The CCF Contingent's annual review will take place on March 4. The dramatic society's production of *Cyrano de Bergerac* will be on February 12, 13 and 14, and the preparatory department's performance of *The Voyage of the Dawn*

Trarke on March 21 and 22. The music society will be giving a concert at the Fairfield Halls, Croydon, in conjunction with Bromley High School on March 12. The college entrance examination will be on January 22.

Royal Grammar School, Worcester
Lent Term of our 700th anniversary year begins today. The highlight will be the International Music Festival from March 18-22, when the school plays host to schools from USA and Europe with whom we have close contact. Half Term will be from February 15-19, and Term ends on March 28. Prospective applicants' Open Morning is on January 19 and former pupils, who may have lost contact, are asked to write with details so that we may update the Directory.

Westminster School
Lent Term begins today. There are 873 members of the School, 604 in the Great School and 269 in the Under School. Performances of *Guns and Butter* will be given on February 4, 5 and 6. School Exat is from February 7 to 12. The Right Rev Edward Knapp-Fisher will officiate at the Confirmation Service in the Abbey on Tuesday 22. The School Concert takes place on Friday, March 8, at St James's, Piccadilly and on Thursday, March 14, in the Abbey. Term ends on March 15.

Wilson's School
Lent term begins on January 8. J.A. Howard continues as school captain with J.E. Best and J. Westrip as his deputies. The Old Wilsonians' dinner will be held on Friday, February 22, at the school. Field day is on March 20. The Mozart Celebration Concert on March 21. Building of the new technology block has commenced and should be completed in March. Term ends on March 27.

Wycombe Abbey School
The spring term starts today, and ends on Friday, March 22. Mr Andrew Stewart-Roberts, MA (Cambs), a senior member of Wycombe Abbey School Council, takes over as chairman from Mr Gordon Adam, MA, LL.M. Mr Adam has been chairman since 1981 and has now come to the end of his term of office. Margaret Vary (Shelburne) is head of school and Sophie Hobbs (Cloister) is deputy head of school. The school concert is at 5.00 pm on Sunday, February 24, and the society's production of *Cyrano de Bergerac* will be on February 12, 13 and 14, and the preparatory department's performance of *The Voyage of the Dawn*

Ireland's bogs yield ancient wooden tracks

By NORMAN HAMMOND
ARCHAEOLOGY
CORRESPONDENT

NEARLY 60 prehistoric trackways, some well over 5,000 years old, have been located in central Ireland, according to a recent book.

The book itself is almost as unusual as the discoveries it records, being sponsored jointly by the European Community social fund and Bord na Mona, the Irish government's peat-mining board.

While some of the tracks have been known for several years, the sheer number of ancient wooden ways crossing the bogs of County Longford has surprised archaeologists: one stretch of wetland at Derrygall has yielded remains of 39 trackways, the earliest dating to 2400 BC.

Before modern drainage can-

tral Ireland was a vast expanse of soggy marshland, interspersed with small islands and larger areas of dryland," says Dr Barry Rathey, of University College, Dublin, the book's author. "On these upland regions were the farmsteads of the early inhabitants of Ireland: it was an unenviable necessity of everyday existence."

These bogs were probably "places of mystery and menace, perhaps with magical-ritual properties, viewed with awe and dread as the abodes of underworld beings," he says. "There were, however, practical reasons to overcome the latent menace of the bogs: travel across them was an unenviable necessity of everyday existence."

Thus the practice of laying down wooden causeways devel-

oped; they differed widely in form and construction according to the varying skills and requirements of the builders, Dr Rathey says. In 1984 one of the most impressive of these was found at Corlea, where Bord na Mona was stripping peat, and found to date to 148 BC, the first Iron Age road in Ireland.

The campaign of the past five years has followed on from that discovery, with numerous trackways emerging in the wake of the peat-mining machines. When the Irish government refused funding in 1988 the European social fund was persuaded to back the project, largely as a way of training young people in the skills of wetland excavation and research. One of them, Alan Moloney, has since discovered a further 38 prehistoric trackways in Timahoe bog, County Kildare.

The tracks are often clustered together and also sometimes overlay one another in the peat, suggesting that communication between the same locations was maintained over many centuries. In some cases five or six tracks lay separated from one another by no more than one or two metres, Dr Rathey says.

The walkway was usually of small tree stems and brushwood, with hazel, alder and birch commonly used. Occasional transverse timbers and lateral pegs hammered into the bog surface aided stability. By 2260 BC bronze axes were being used to cut timber: the deep clear cutmarks show the efficiency of metal tools, and also are of great potential significance in a consideration of the origins of metallurgy in Ireland, Dr Rathey says.

Since Ireland has long been seen as one of the centres of innovation from which metalworking spread to Britain, the work has important implications for British prehistory also. Some of the wood used was recycled from discarded artefacts: among the objects tentatively identified are part of a cart, a stove-built bucket, and a possible Iron Age "totem pole", all from the massive Iron Age road at Corlea. The discoveries, the largest quantity of firmly dated prehistoric woodwork so far known in Ireland, promise to shed light on ancient climate, vegetation, carpentry and metallurgy as Dr Rathey and his colleagues attempt to reconstruct the beginnings of Irish society.

Trackways Through Time. Headline Publishing, Rush, co Dublin.

Serious graphic message of fun and Games

Abram Games first discovered a talent for poster design during the second world war — although not all his efforts were appreciated

THE smell of soldiers' feet was what launched Abram Games on his career as a wartime poster artist. Called up into the infantry in 1940, the young designer spent his spare time drawing up a memorandum proposing a series of educational posters about health, hygiene and security.

"The first item on the list was 'Keep Your Feet Clean', says Mr Games, now aged 76, whose 60 years of poster design go on display today at the Camden Arts Centre. "The chap in the next bed to mine was a navy, and the one on the other side was a waiter, so I made the suggestion with feeling. The standards of hygiene in the army were appalling, and it had never occurred to the authorities that publicity might have a role to play."

The memo was ignored at first, but after Mr Games was picked off the parade ground to design a recruiting poster, he was able to return to his idea. He produced a series of more than a hundred designs, urging soldiers to wash their feet, visit the dentist, keep their weapons greased — and above all to keep their lips buttoned against careless talk.

Today, his posters are recognised as classic examples of forceful communication, enlisting many of the devices explored by the surrealists. They are full of visual puns, reversals of perspective and expressionist use of

has always refused to engage in party political propaganda. He is still busy with commissions today, a tall, aquiline figure, effortlessly lifting heavy display frames in his studio to show examples of his recent work.

The War Office in the Forties commissioned posters in an up to date idiom which would have been too bold for most commercial advertisers, and which might have appeared too sophisticated to appeal to uneducated servicemen. "I was given a free hand, and they took it that I knew what I was doing," Mr Games says.

When peace returned, many clients were ready to take advantage of Mr Games's mastery of the arresting visual image. Among them was *The Times*. In 1960 he drew the first of several light-hearted posters for this newspaper, a prize-winning device of a carved classical bust reading the paper, to the caption (not his own) "Top people read *The Times*".

"I know that some people thought the slogan implied too exclusive an image, but on the other hand everyone wants to be a



Abram Games and *Times* poster

top person. I thought of the bust because *The Times* is an institution and has a classic quality."

The Camden exhibition is a gallery of familiar images which now carry a considerable nostalgic force for those who remember the Fifties and Sixties. The ubiquitous emblem of the 1951 Festival of Britain was Mr Games's work, and so is the logo for the Queen's Award to Industry, designed in 1965.

Many of the exhibits would look fresh and relevant on the hoardings today. Others illustrate how greatly the world has changed. London Regional Transport would scarcely dare to revive a poster for the Underground which appeared in 1937, boasting: "A train every 90 seconds."

GEORGE HILL
 ● Abram Games: 60 Years of Design is at the Camden Arts Centre, Arkwright Road, London NW3, from today to February 10 (closed Mondays).

Fighting fit in the trenches



Tough trio: Alan Ladd, Billy de Wolfe and Michael O'Shea, 1948

The trenchcoat is the longest-running fashion classic. Liz Smith charts its subtle evolution

Tough guys in every Hollywood whodunit traditionally wear trenchcoats. Only when they turn up the collar and yank closed the belt, bristling with brass D-rings, are they ready for action. Think of Humphrey Bogart as Sam Spade or Warren Beatty as Dick Tracy. The most stylish screen women — among them Sophia Loren, Ingrid Bergman, Marlene Dietrich, Lauren Bacall — also took the uniform trench and added a certain "tough guy" chic.

But Bogart in any role, both on screen and off, is the one whose image is inextricably linked with a weather-beaten trenchcoat, its belt usually knotted rather than buckled. Aquascutum, the 140-year-old tailoring business that kitted out officers with showerproof wool coats in the Crimean war, claims that its trenchcoat co-starred regularly with Bogart.

Few would deny, however, that the Burberry trenchcoat has achieved star status in its own right. The world's longest-running fashion classic, the Burberry trench was invented in its present form in 1914, when first world war officers required such details added to the raglan-sleeved military weatherproof greatcoat as epaulettes and brass D-rings on belts to secure hand grenades. The Burberry trench, with or without its distinctive check lining, was singled out as the Madison Avenue advertising executive's mark of achievement in the film *Kramer vs Kramer*, worn by both parties, Dustin Hoffman and Meryl Streep. And the trench stood proudly in the Victoria & Albert Museum in 1988 in an exhibition celebrating Burberry style.

The trenchcoat is far from becoming a museum piece. Aquascutum still creates a "storm" coat or trenchcoat, its detailing little changed from the 1915 original, "designed for the rigorous conditions created by trench warfare". Yves Saint Laurent and Ralph Lauren, both designers who respect the thoroughbred look of functional detailing, turn out their own versions, as do Marks & Spencer and every other high street store chain.

But to witness the birth of the classic trenchcoat you must go to Yorkshire, where Burberrys creates up to 20 versions for men (and 30 for women) at its Leeds and Castleford factories. The gestation period of a Burberry trenchcoat, with its distinguishing wedge back-pleat, deep yoke, gun patch, throat tabs and cuff straps, is six weeks from the first cut into



Sophia Loren belted up and ready for action in *The Key*, 1958



Meryl Streep and Burberry co-star in *Kramer vs Kramer*, 1979

the cloth to the finished garment. The time taken to stitch and press the coat as it passes along the production line adds up to just 233 minutes.

A print-out of the operations that go into the manufacture of Trench 70, a man's version of the Trench 57, with different facings, lists 111 stages, from number 1 ("shrink vilenes") to number 111 ("final smooth and touch-up"). The technical instructions, expressed in flat computerspeak, do little to reflect the skill of the stitching (with water-repellent sewing thread) encircling each eyelet on a tab (no clamped-on metal eyelets at Burberrys), or the



Wear it again, Sam: Humphrey Bogart models the Aquascutum Kingsway trench he helped to make famous

hand-finishing (operation 91) that finally distinguishes a Burberry collar from its cheaper imitations. In his Castleford design office, lined with rails of master patterns, Paul Scrimshaw, Burberrys' menswear designer, explains the subtle evolution in the silhouette of the classic trenchcoat. "The trick is that it appears relatively unchanged, but the fit has changed enormously," he says.

"At the moment I manage to cover the world with three basic silhouettes. The first is a slim-fitting raglan style for the UK, Japan and some of Scandinavia. The next is a blown-up version of that block, made with an easier fit, for France, Italy, Austria and Switzerland. The Americans are on to that one now. The third is the big one, oversized with deep armholes, for Germany."

The two extremes in the length of the trenchcoat are 107cm for the Japanese and 127cm for the Germans. Factories in New Jersey supply the American market. Although 180,000 trenchcoats are made each year under licence in Japan, 35,000 more are imported from Yorkshire. The Japanese are happy to pay extra for the snob appeal of a made-in-England label.

The classic luxury Burberry is Trench 21, a raglan-sleeved pure cotton gabardine coat with a button-out wool and camel warmer (which doubles as a dressing gown when travelling) and wool top collar. For men, Trench 21 costs £590. The women's version (the warmer has no sleeves, so is not a potential dressing gown) is £530. Trench 1 is the 21 without the warmer and overcollar. The price of the most basic cotton/polyester Burberry trenchcoat is £290 for men, and £285 for the women's version.

A part from introducing new fabrics such as silky peach-bloom microfibre or a gingham check taffeta (for women only), variations in the trenchcoat styles are engineered with length and changes in lining. Mr Scrimshaw throws open coats to show off the variations in button-out linings, the new lightweight 35g paddings, the split linings (horizontally split between, say, quilted gold satin and khaki wool melange).

Linings are inset with a diamond-shaped panel of Burberry checks. Others display a patch embroidered with the charging

knight in the Burberry trademark. Button-out warmers can be reversible, from checked wool to quilted satin.

A team is permanently engaged in litigation with manufacturers who overstep the line and appropriate the trademark checks or detailing. "The minute I put on a coat I can tell whether someone has pinched the pattern by taking apart one of our coats," Mr Scrimshaw says.

The Italians are the fussiest customers. They were first into the fashionable short lengths, and will pay any price to get their hands on cashmere coats. "If I get it right for the Italians, generally I have it right for the rest of the world," Mr Scrimshaw says.

Burberrys' own British retail shops always stock some of the newer styles and the classic qualities, but Mr Scrimshaw has little respect for the general level of taste in this country. Store buyers, it seems, do not think the British want quality and generally order the most basic styles in the simplest cotton/polyester gabardine with polyester check linings. "I am pleased to say that the rest of the world won't touch those," Mr Scrimshaw says.

NOAH'S ARK FROM EHRMAN TAPESTRY



Catherine Reurs, the Canadian textile designer, has treated the story of Noah's Ark in the naive tradition. Her animals, lined up in single file, have an appeal and simplicity reminiscent of 18th Century American folk art which inspires so much of her work. Her colours are cool and muted, dusty rose pinks and mauve, pale and steel blue, elephant grey, white and deeper thundery blue. It is a very popular design with children and makes a most original tapestry.

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Essence of Coco lingers on

Twenty years after Coco Chanel's death, her legacy is undimmed

THURSDAY is the twentieth anniversary of Coco Chanel's death. The grande mademoiselle of 20th century fashion, by 1971 a cantankerous 87-year-old, died in her room in the Ritz in Paris, alone and without heirs. But her legacy of style and her fashion empire live on, as vibrant today as in her heyday. Her philosophy — marrying luxury with simplicity — is as relevant today as when she started out in 1913.

From that first hat shop in Deauville, where she sold sailor tops and jersey suits to women still consigned to whalebone, and pinned extravagant jewels on beads, she assumed the role of dictator of 20th century style. Her first fragrance, Chanel No 5, created in 1921, is still the world's best seller.

When she died *Time* magazine estimated the turnover of her fashion empire, ruled by the Wertheimer family, at \$160 million a year. Her stormy relationship with the Wertheimers and their fragrance business, Boujouis, dates from the launch of Chanel No 5. They stuck with her through



Classics: Coco Chanel by Man Ray in 1935 (left), and the 1990 style

the ups and downs of her fortunes, her retirement in 1939 and the chilly reception to her comeback in 1954, at the age of 71. By the Sixties her customers included Jacqueline Kennedy, who was wearing a pink Chanel suit when her husband was assassinated at her side.

Credit for the success of the Chanel business today, worth well over \$1 billion a year, must go to Karl Lagerfeld, appointed designer in 1982. His success can be observed daily in a world where the Chanel gilt-buttoned and braided jacket and the chain-handled bag are the chic contemporary uniform. Chanel once said: "Fashion does not exist unless it goes down in the streets."

She expected clothes to keep pace with life. A skirt was cut for crossing the legs, the armholes of a jacket were made "to embrace".



Classics: Coco Chanel by Man Ray in 1935 (left), and the 1990 style

Although she hated the short skirts of the Sixties, she would applaud Mr Lagerfeld's reworking of her classics, putting them over body suits, leggings and thigh boots.

Mr Lagerfeld in turn says he senses her presence whenever he walks into the rue Cambon couture house and is inspired. "Once you know the music, you can play it on any instrument," he says.

L.S.

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BRIEFING South Bank success tale

THE National Theatre has found itself with a smash hit in Alan Bennett's adaptation of *The Wind in the Willows*, the theatre's biggest success since *Guy and Dolls* in 1982. The present booking period was mostly sold out before the show opened, and glowing reviews have intensified demand. The current booking period is sold out, but postal applications for the next one open on January 28. However, if eager theatregoers still cannot manage to get into the Olivier before the run ends on June 1, they will have another chance next Christmas. According to director Nicholas Hytner, the National plans to remount the show at that time.



Alan Bennett: National hit

Black bard

TALAWA Theatre plans to celebrate Shakespeare's birthday this year with what it claims will be the first-ever all-black Shakespeare production in Britain. *Antony and Cleopatra* opens in preview at the Liverpool Everyman on April 24 (the day after the bard's 427th birthday) and comes to London in May. Talawa scored a West End success in 1988 with its black *The Importance of Being Earnest*. In Yvonne Brewster's *Antony and Cleopatra*, Jeffrey Kissoon will be Antony, Dona Croll Cleopatra and Ben Thomas Octavius.

Even now

STARTING today, visitors to one of London's oldest and most delightful museums will be able to enjoy it as its founder did, in "deep masses of shadow". Sir John Soane, the architect of the Bank of England, collected paintings, sculpture and antiquities, cramming them into his Lincoln's Inn Fields home. He had to buy the house next door to accommodate his collecting mania, and invited people to inspect his collection in the evenings. Now, as an experiment, the trustees are opening Sir John Soane's house on the evening of the first Tuesday of every month, between 6 and 9pm.

Last chance...

ENGLISH National Opera's staging of *Pelléas et Mélisande* is not at all an ethereal vision of Debussy's only opera. The voices, in what is a beautifully sung performance, are full and physical, and Mark Elder cultures the orchestral score into a remarkable sensuous warmth; yet another testimony to the achievements of the finest conductor-orchestra team now working in London. *Pelléas and Mélisande* ends Thursday at the Coliseum (071-836 3161).

GALLERIES

Brief encounter on the Strand

A rare opportunity to see Old Master treasures from

Venice, reviewed by John Russell Taylor

Like most of the major art museums in the world, the Venice Accademia constantly has its own collections under scholarly review. The loan show of Old Master Drawings from the Gallerie dell'Accademia, at present in London in the new Drawings Gallery of the Courtauld Institute, therefore has a double advantage. For the layman it is an agreeable opportunity to see a number of drawings which are seldom on show even in Venice, while for the specialist it offers a useful conspectus of recent scholarship, particularly in relation to a variety of minor 16th- and 17th-century Italian masters.

The preponderance of works on show are pleasant to see and satisfying to interpret even if the question of who, exactly, wielded the pen or the chalk seems immaterial. For those who care to read the captions, let alone those who read the catalogue, it is not always easy to keep such considerations at arm's length.

No doubt some will feel a little let down because virtually all the reattributions (practically everything in sight has been reattributed, in some cases several times) are demotions. Those that are not, generally shift the attribution from one little-known painter to another, in a way that probably means nothing except to those who are very highly specialised in the field.

The tone of the notes which embody these shifts of scholarly opinion tends to be unduly

dogmatic about them. Some of the reattributions do at least help to make a point of wider application. It is intriguing to see drawings once attributed to Poussin or Rembrandt now given instead to some much lesser-known Italian. Equally, there are several Italian drawings which look much more northern European than Mediterranean; even if they have never been attributed to a northern master, the influences are unmistakable.

All this is salutary, in that it helps to remind us that not only did important non-Italian artists go to Italy to see and learn, but also that the traffic was not entirely one-way, and the evolution of art styles was much more international than the art historians, with their passion for national categories, usually make it appear.

And there are here some unquestionably superlative individual pieces: a Claude "View of Delphi with the Temple of Apollo", which actually seems still to be accepted as by Claude; and an amazing Pontormo (formerly thought to be Tintoretto) of entwined nudes, which is now convincingly related to Pontormo's long-lost paintings in the choir of the church of San Lorenzo, in Florence.

There is a subtle yet compelling "Triton and Nereid", once regarded as a Raphael. Now this is thought to be a copy after Raphael by Cristoforo Roncalli. The catalogue notes, rather ruefully, that as a Raphael it has "acquired a substantial bibliography".

I would be sad to think that since the work's demotion it had been consigned to the outer darkness. But as long as there are shows like this, it and its kind seem happily unlikely to vanish permanently from view.

Old Master Drawings from the Gallerie dell'Accademia, Venice. Courtauld Galleries, Somerset House, The Strand, WC2 (071-873 2526) Mon-Sat 10-6, Sun 2-6, until Jan 13. £2.50 (£1.25 concs).



Work of a minor master: "Head of a warrior" by Giuseppe Cesari, called Il Cavalier d'Arpino

CLASSICAL MUSIC

Surviving on the helter-skelter

British pianist Peter Donohoe, reflecting on a decade of success, talks to Hilary Finch

Peter Donohoe has the habit of drumming his fingers nervously on the chair arm when sitting at anything other than a piano. His holiday was three weeks' teaching at the Banff Summer School. At 5am, he frequently whistles away time at the keyboard of his computer. He admits that he often does not know what to do with himself unless he is at the piano.

After his successes at Leeds in 1981 and Moscow in 1982, Donohoe is still on the helter-skelter. There have been tours of the Soviet Union, America, Australia and New Zealand, and visits to every major European city. His present British tour will be followed by visits to Hong Kong and Japan. Later comes Toronto, El Paso and Los Angeles. Last month, recordings of Brahms, Busoni and Tchaikovsky appeared. Donohoe is the musician-workaholic par excellence.

The initial post-competition difficulties of learning to cope with changed critical expectations and an over-crowded itinerary recede into insignificance in the light of the continuing pressures. No sooner does Donohoe contrive a fine balance between scheduling performances of Brahms's First Piano Concerto — often enough to satisfy public demand and yet not too often to lose the vital nervous

excitement — than his record company will decide that his image needs changing.

The marketing of Donohoe reached a peak of frenzy just over a year ago, when EMI decided to give him the Nigel Kennedy treatment. A new outfit was ordered, the fluffy half-mane of hair was greased back, and the bluff, balding lumberjack look was turned into a city slicker. "Not being exactly an oil-painting," Donohoe reflects wryly, "I couldn't quite grasp what they were at. But I suppose that if you don't join the hype, the public will think you're not worth bothering about. It's become rather like competitions: it's just one of the things you have to do."

The last decade has turned this phlegmatic Mancunian into a sharp strategist who can stand outside his artistic persona and see the influences at work: who is exploiting whom at any moment, and the part played in it all by his own temperament.

In a highly competitive profession, Donohoe has carved out his own niche in terms of repertoire. But this is not only the choice of a shrewd operator. Like

his late fellow-Mancunian, John Ogdon, Donohoe is a big man playing big music, often from the era of musical upheaval in the early 20th century.

Busoni's Piano Concerto, which he played at the 1988 Proms, has become a Donohoe hallmark. "There was no problem with the work for me, because I can identify with an awful lot that I read about Busoni. He said, for example, that the only person in the hall who should not be emotionally carried away is the performer. We see too little of that in concerts now. Communication is often pseudo-emotional and primarily visual."

Not so Donohoe. The face remains almost expressionless, the body is sturdily four-square. What we are experiencing is a performance primarily fired by the intellectual and technical demands of the piece. His Prokofiev, with more ballast than that of many contemporaries, reminds the listener that the tradition of Prokofiev interpretation is still young. His Tchaikovsky First Piano Concerto can also surprise. The pounding piano chords of the

opening are strangely muted: Donohoe has done his homework and discovered that in Tchaikovsky's first version those chords were arpeggiated to give the impression of a harp gently accompanying.

Shrewd self-knowledge warns him away from the public presentation of Classical masters whose work needs longer and deeper assimilation than Donohoe can at present accommodate.

New commissions, though, are something else. Donohoe is a quick learner and is fearless about contemporary scores. He is working on getting a new sonata out of Sir Michael Tippett, and only time, it seems, will prevent him. The huge demand for a reliable and omnivorous pianist with more concertos in his travelling bag than most of his colleagues put together, is at the moment threatening his development as a recitalist. His courageous London Beethoven and Tippett programme recently at the South Bank drew a 50 per cent house and not a single review. The fight for artistic survival, against odds beyond even his formidable intellectual control, is still on.

● Peter Donohoe is at the Aberdeen Music Hall tomorrow; Dundee Caird Hall, Wednesday; Edinburgh Usher Hall, Friday and the Glasgow Royal Concert Hall on Saturday.



Peter Donohoe at the piano: "I'm not exactly an oil painting"

RECORDS: CLASSICAL

Pace and scale are of the Mozartian essence

Mozart: Don Giovanni. Hagegård, Cachemaille, Auger, Jones and Bonney, Drottningholm Orchestra/Ostman. CD/Oiseau-Lyre 425 943-2 (3 CDs)
Mozart: Così fan tutte. Soloists, Berlin PO/Barenboim. EMI/WEA 2292 45475-2 (3 CDs)
Mozart: Die Zauberflöte. Soloists, Ambrosian Chorus, ASMF/Marriner. Philips 425 276-2 (2 CDs)

THE contrast here is only superficially between the "authentic" style adopted by Arnold Östman and the "modern" (i.e. old-fashioned) practices of the other two conductors: what really matters is that the Drottningholm Don Giovanni is just so much more alive. Where the Barenboim Così is so broad as to lose almost all of the music's wit in sluggishness, and the Marriner

Magic Flute is exceedingly steady, Östman has his small ensemble moving briskly and to the point.

No less importantly, the instrumentalists sound as if they are taking part in an opera performance, bending around the voices to nice musical and dramatic effect: a good example of this is the Catalogue Aria, where the orchestra conveys a symbol-

ised laughter at once beautiful and telling. More generally, the close knitting of voices and instruments contributes much to the performance's minimal sensuousness.

There is a lot of seductive performance in the individual performances, too. Håkan Hagegård as Giovanni produces a voice that is darkly honeyed and intricately flexible: he is a very plausible virtuoso of musical

and fleshly pleasures. Gilles Cachemaille as Leporello is also suave yet consistently in touch with musical and verbal sense, a real find. The ladies: Arleen Auger as Anna, Della Jones as Elvira and Barbara Bonney as Zerlina, are all in excellent form, particularly the utterly pure, clear Bonney. Nico van der Meel contributes a youthful and sensitive Ottavio, Bryn Terfel a strong Masetto. Altogether this is a recording full of insight and delight. It must also be the most complete text ever recorded, since the original Prague version is accompanied by a separate record including all the extra music written for Vienna.

The positive aspects of the other two releases are more spasmodic. The studio recording of Così from Berlin is distinguished most of all by the Despina of Joan Rodgers, who alone seems aware that she is in a comedy, and whose musical skills are complete. Ferruccio Furlanetto offers an interesting, clownish Guglielmo, though his tone is too like that of John Tomlinson as Don Alfonso (not his best role) for a recording.

Marriner in Die Zauberflöte again gives the atmosphere of a concert performance (only the barest essentials of the dialogue are included). Olaf Bar as Papageno sounds as unfunny as if he were singing Schubert, and Kiri Te Kanawa is uninvolved and occasionally slipshod as Pamina. Francisco Araiza is no longer the ideal Mozart tenor: he sounds as if he may be on the way to darker territory. And Samuel Ramey has the most worrying wobble in Sarastro's arias. But Cheryl Studer is brilliant and full-voiced as the Queen of the Night.

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Sparkling but critically flawed

Diamond Jubilee
Sadler's Wells

WITH her rasping tongue, her Cockney accent and her trust in God, Lilian Baylis always did embarrass the powers that be. In celebrating 60 years of theatre, opera and ballet, Sadler's Wells showed that the theatre still hardly knows how to handle the lady.

The Birmingham Royal Ballet, English National Opera, the Royal Ballet and the Royal National Theatre were all her children, and all took part in a four-hour evening devised and directed by Michael Kennison and attended by Princess Margaret and the Wells's other great heroine, Dame Ninette de Valois. Their combined talents might well have borne adequate witness to the achievements of the women who steered theatrical history from the Old Vic to bringing opera and ballet, too, to Islington. But more over tribute was clearly in order.

Between every item, be it *Lohengrin*'s "In Fernheim Land" or a large chunk of *Hobson's Choice*, the figure of Baylis would appear, ludicrously caricatured by Polly March, walking her funny little walk backwards and forwards across the stage, recounting the history of the enterprise and setting every tooth on edge with the asides she might have made about things today.

When the great lady died, the evening reached an apothecosis of tackiness. She joined her aunt,

Emma Cons (played by Richard Stuart in drag) in a pair of portable caddies, and the two old biddies, too, almost tripped their way, with loud celestial sound-effects, through the remaining, more modern parts of the evening.

If this were not enough to make one want to crawl under the carpet in embarrassment, the contributions on the opera front made one feel almost ashamed to be there as a music critic. The first extract of any substance was a selection of arias from *The Bohemian Girl*, *Lily of Killarney* and *Marianna*, the staple diet of the Wells until the 1930s. They were piano-accompanied, archly introduced by Courtney Kenny, and sung barely creditably by ENO veterans including Eric Stalling.

At the other end, and prefaced by huge slide projections of Peter Jonas, Mark Elder and David Pountney, was Philip Glass's *Akhmatov*: Christopher Robson sang "The Hymn to the Sun" in front of three light-projected pyramids. In between came extracts from *Sansom et Dalila* and *Carmen*, and then, movingly at last, Heather Harper in a finely stitched "Embroidery Aria" from *Peter Grimes*.

The thespian art was represented by what one can only hope was a deliberately ill-rehearsed abridgement of *Everyman* and the scene of the gulling of Malvolio from that first *Twelfth Night* which opened the theatre in 1931. For the rest, it was the dancers' evening. They alone presented performances truly worthy of the occasion. Wayne Sleep and Anthony Dowell danced a nicely



Worthy performances: Wayne Sleep and Anthony Dowell in *Facade*

understated "Popular Song" from Ashton's *Facade*, Donald Macleary and Marguerite Porter achieved a marvellous pas de deux from *Les Patineurs*, Charles Mackerras conducted his own

Pinetree Poll and Dame Ninette de Valois was justly fitted in Susan Lucas's "The Betrayed Girl" from *The Rake's Progress*.

Hammond organ enthusiasts. Born in New Jersey, he learnt his trade in Philadelphia, and was taken under the wing of the singer-pianist Les McCann in the early Sixties. His debut *Pacific Jazz* album, a raw jam session with McCann and Ben Webster, re-surfaced last year.

A jam session of any sort would have been more than welcome during their opening set on Sunday. What we were offered instead was disappointingly threadbare, even allowing for Witherspoon's announcement that there had been no rehearsal. Once again it looks as if we shall have to wait two or three nights before the routines are knocked into shape.

Perfunctory would be the most diplomatic way to describe the proceedings. The choice of songs — from "Hill Heel Sneakers" to "C.C. Rider" — showed a distinct lack of adventure. After half an hour Witherspoon quit the stage, leaving Holmes's trio to take over the rest of the set. In the still uncompleted surroundings of the Café, it all seemed depressingly half-hearted.

HILARY FINCH

Jimmy Witherspoon/
Richard Holmes
Jazz Café

THESE are early days yet, but the booking policy at the newly opened Jazz Café already shows signs of becoming admirably broadminded. Like the playlist at Jazz FM radio station, the catchment area is being stretched as wide as possible.

Adelaide Hall, who is due to appear next Sunday and Monday, certainly falls within the boundaries. Recent visitors such as The JB All Stars and the Bulgarian saxophonist Ivo Papasov are both floating somewhere on the margins. So too are Jimmy Witherspoon and Richard "Groove" Holmes, two veterans who are in residence all week.

Witherspoon has been weaving in and out of the blues and jazz categories for most of his career, as far back as his apprenticeship singing with the Jay McShann band. Holmes, meanwhile, is little known outside the coterie of

Hammond organ enthusiasts. Born in New Jersey, he learnt his trade in Philadelphia, and was taken under the wing of the singer-pianist Les McCann in the early Sixties. His debut *Pacific Jazz* album, a raw jam session with McCann and Ben Webster, re-surfaced last year.

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CLIVE DAVIS

Samson and Dalila
Staatsoper, Vienna

ON THE eve of his fiftieth birthday, Plácido Domingo received a half-hour standing ovation from the audience of the Vienna State Opera. It followed his triumphant performance in Saint-Saëns's *Samson et Dalila*. The strength of his voice shows no sign of waning and its timbre only gets lighter and more appealing with the years.

The same cannot be said of his heroine, Agnes Baltsa. She remains a darling of the Viennese audience and the curtain-call applause was as much hers as Domingo's. Of course, here remains a captivating voice — nominally a mezzo, but with strength in all three registers. What she has lost, though, is the legato line that once wove these textures together.

The lower register proved magnificent in the Act II duet with Dagon, leader of the Philistines — the fine dramatic baritone Alain

Fondary. But in "Printemps qui commence", or the duet "Mon coeur s'ouvre à ta voix", Baltsa was unable to produce the requisite sensuality.

Not that the director of this new production, Götz Friedrich, is particularly concerned with nurturing sensuality. Whether concentrating on Dalila's lust rather than her love was Baltsa's or Friedrich's idea, it is an emotion well suited to her voice. For Domingo, the heroic nature of the role suited him perfectly.

Saint-Saëns originally planned *Samson* as an oratorio, and was persuaded by his librettist to turn it into a full opera. It remains a static work and needs spectacle to keep it moving. Friedrich and his designer Gianni Quaranta turned ancient Gaza into an Italian Futurist subterranean temple, and for the Act III bacchanal, a well-drilled but mundanely choreographed corps de ballet was calqued by Friedrich's insertion of bald black-clad men with dummies. The music was conducted by Georges Prêtre, whose 1962 recording remains unsurpassed.

ANDREW LUCRE

Any Questions?/Any
Answers?
Radio 4

WHEN an audience greets the end of a concert with tumultuous applause it is both saluting the quality of the performance and relieving the frustration of the silence that has hitherto been imposed on it. When the live audience of *Any Questions?* (Radio 4, Friday) applauds a speech from one of the invited panel, it is doing something rather weightier: signalling its presence for the benefit of the microphones, certainly, but also registering a generalised approval for the sacred cow of Free Speech for which it fought and died in two world wars. In this bath of good intentions one half expects Jeffrey

Archer to stand up and declare the fete well and truly open.

The impact of spoken radio often depends on the principle of contrast, and in this regard the programme scores handsomely. The questions from the good citizens of Little Smitten (on this occasion Clifton, Bedfordshire) are delivered in a tone that would do credit to a speak-your-weight machine, and are then fielded by a panel composed of professional mouthpieces who have been taught to inject a little modulation into their sentences. Flattery-by-contrast works every time; one can almost hear a nation of pub bore attending to their role models and practising the most sonorous way of uttering the word "responsibility".

As to the opinions that are expressed, these could hardly be of less moment, since — for reasons which it fought and died in two world wars. In this bath of good intentions one half expects Jeffrey

will be accorded the same level of applause as the Tory taking it upon himself to defend that company. The only time last Friday's clapping was less than wholehearted was when Sheila McKechin, the director of *Shelter* and a person who specialises in being appalled, took the trouble to explain why interest-rate hikes discriminate against the poor. This, quite the most informative speech on offer, was greeted by applause which can only be described as puzzled.

Still, should British troops die in the Gulf in order to help restore an undemocratic regime? Should the learning of foreign languages no longer be compulsory for 14- to 16-year-olds? Is the time right to introduce random breath-testing? Must the pound be devalued before interest rates can be lowered? And (of vital importance, this one) is British Telecom's reported expenditure of

£100 million on its new "image" money well spent?

To discover what real people feel about these issues, one has to tune into *Any Questions?* (Radio 4, Saturday, after the gale warning), in which the chairman James Naughtie takes telephone calls on the topics of the day. Naughtie invited his interlocutors to express themselves as "forcefully" as they pleased, and one could only feel sorry for him as he covered under the ensuing barrage of courteous mildness. His first six callers agreed that it was a jolly good idea for youngsters to learn foreign languages, the next four delivered worthy statements about the Gulf crisis, the last five described their road accidents in some detail. But the real unanswered question is this: who listens to these programmes? One gets you ten that the keenest auditors are the CIA.

MARTIN CROPPER

Answers from page 16

ZOSTER
(a) An ancient Greek waist-belt for men, hence the center or shingles, from the Greek *zoster* a girdle: "The mire is a band of mud round the waist under the chiton, the zoster a similar belt worn over the tunic."

MAKIMONO
(a) A roll, as of silk, exp. a long picture or writing rolled up and not hung, from the Japanese *maki* a roll + *mono* a thing: "She appears to be raising out of the mist at her feet bearing a makimono covered with writing."

COVOVIS
(a) The act of casting off an integument, sloughing, from the Greek *ek* out of + *dein* to put on: "A skin of some dimension was cast by the human larva in the 16th century, a new chrysalis was hatched."

PDA
(b) A public display of affection, from the acronym, also used as a verb: "On the other hand, some people obviously think it OK to PDA, namely the people who do it themselves."

ENTERTAINMENTS

OPERA & BALLET

CHICHESTER 6.01.03.04.05.06.07.08.09.10.11.12.13.14.15.16.17.18.19.20.21.22.23.24.25.26.27.28.29.30.31.32.33.34.35.36.37.38.39.40.41.42.43.44.45.46.47.48.49.50.51.52.53.54.55.56.57.58.59.60.61.62.63.64.65.66.67.68.69.70.71.72.73.74.75.76.77.78.79.80.81.82.83.84.85.86.87.88.89.90.91.92.93.94.95.96.97.98.99.100.101.102.103.104.105.106.107.108.109.110.111.112.113.114.115.116.117.118.119.120.121.122.123.124.125.126.127.128.129.130.131.132.133.134.135.136.137.138.139.140.141.142.143.144.145.146.147.148.149.150.151.152.153.154.155.156.157.158.159.160.161.162.163.164.165.166.167.168.169.170.171.172.173.174.175.176.177.178.179.180.181.182.183.184.185.186.187.188.189.190.191.192.193.194.195.196.197.198.199.200.201.202.203.204.205.206.207.208.209.210.211.212.213.214.215.216.217.218.219.220.221.222.223.224.225.226.227.228.229.230.231.232.233.234.235.236.237.238.239.240.241.242.243.244.245.246.247.248.249.250.251.252.253.254.255.256.257.258.259.260.261.262.263.264.265.266.267.268.269.270.271.272.273.274.275.276.277.278.279.280.281.282.283.284.285.286.287.288.289.290.291.292.293.294.295.296.297.298.299.300.301.302.303.304.305.306.307.308.309.310.311.312.313.314.315.316.317.318.319.320.321.322.323.324.325.326.327.328.329.330.331.332.333.334.335.336.337.338.339.340.341.342.343.344.345.346.347.348.349.350.351.352.353.354.355.356.357.358.359.360.361.362.363.364.365.366.367.368.369.370.371.372.373.374.375.376.377.378.379.380.381.382.383.384.385.386.387.388.389.390.391.392.393.394.395.396.397.398.399.400.401.402.403.404.405.406.407.408.409.410.411.412.413.414.415.416.417.418.419.420.421.422.423.424.425.426.427.428.429.430.431.432.433.434.435.436.437.438.439.440.441.442.443.444.445.446.447.448.449.450.451.452.453.454.455.456.457.458.459.460.461.462.463.464.465.466.467.468.469.470.471.472.473.474.475.476.477.478.479.480.481.482.483.484.485.486.487.488.489.490.491.492.493.494.495.496.497.498.499.500.501.502.503.504.505.506.507.508.509.510.511.512.513.514.515.516.517.518.519.520.521.522.523.524.525.526.527.528.529.530.531.532.533.534.535.536.537.538.539.540.541.542.543.544.545.546.547.548.549.550.551.552.553.554.555.556.557.558.559.560.561.562.563.564.565.566.567.568.569.570.571.572.573.574.575.576.577.578.579.580.581.582.583.584.585.586.587.588.589.590.591.592.593.594.595.596.597.598.599.600.601.602.603.604.605.606.607.608.609.610.611.612.613.614.615.616.617.618.619.620.621.622.623.624.625.626.627.628.629.630.631.632.633.634.635.636.637.638.639.640.641.642.643.644.645.646.647.648.649.650.651.652.653.654.655.656.657.658.659.660.661.662.663.664.665.666.667.668.669.670.671.672.673.674.675.676.677.678.679.680.681.682.683.684.685.686.687.688.689.690.691.692.693.694.695.696.697.698.699.700.701.702.703.704.705.706.707.708.709.710.711.712.713.714.715.716.717.718.719.720.721.722.723.724.725.726.727.728.729.730.731.732.733.734.735.736.737.738.739.740.741.742.743.744.745.746.747.748.749.750.751.752.753.754.755.756.757.758.759.760.761.762.763.764.765.766.767.768.769.770.771.772.773.774.775.776.777.778.779.780.781.782.783.784.785.786.787.788.789.790.791.792.793.794.795.796.797.798.799.800.801.802.803.804.805.806.807.808.809.810.811.812.813.814.815.816.817.818.819.820.821.822.823.824.825.826.827.828.829.830.831.832.833.834.835.836.837.838.839.840.841.842.843.844.845.846.847.848.849.850.851.852.853.854.855.856.857.858.859.860.861.862.863.864.865.866.867.868.869.870.871.872.873.874.875.876.877.878.879.880.881.882.883.884.885.886.887.888.889.890.891.892.893.894.895.896.897.898.899.900.901.902.903.904.905.906.907.908.909.910.911.912.913.914.915.916.917.918.919.920.921.922.923.924.925.926.927.928.929.930.931.932.933.934.935.936.937.938.939.940.941.942.943.944.945.946.947.948.949.950.951.952.953.954.955.956.957.958.959.960.961.962.963.964.965.966.967.968.969.970.971.972.973.974.975.976.977.978.979.980.981.982.983.984.985.986.987.988.989.990.991.992.993.994.995.996.997.998.999.1000.1001.1002.1003.1004.1005.1006.1007.1008.1009.1010.1011.1012.1013.1014.1015.1016.1017.1018.1019.1020.1021.1022.1023.1024.1025.1026.1027.1028.1029.1030.1031.1032.1033.1034.1035.1036.1037.1038.1039.1040.1041.1042.1043.1044.1045.1046.1047.1048.1049.1050.1051.1052.1053.1054.1055.1056.1057.1058.1059.1060.1061.1062.1063.1064.1065.1066.1067.1068.1069.1070.1071.1072.1073.1074.1075.1076.1077.1078.1079.1080.1081.1082.1083.1084.1085.1086.1087.1088.1089.1090.1091.1092.1093.1094.1095.1096.1097.1098.1099.1100.1101.1102.1103.1104.1105.1106.1107.1108.1109.1110.1111.1112.1113.1114.1115.1116.1117.1118.1119.1120.1121.1122.1123.1124.1125.1126.1127.1128.1129.1130.1131.1132.1133.1134.1135.1136.1137.1138.1139.1140.1141.1142.1143.1144.1145.1146.1147.1148.1149.1150.1151.1152.1153.1154.1155.1156.1157.1158.1159.1160.1161.1162.1163.1164.1165.1166.1167.1168.1169.1170.1171.1172.1173.1174.1175.1176.1177.1178.1179.1180.1181.1182.1183.1184.1185.1186.1187.1188.1189.1190.1191.1192.1193.1194.1195.1196.1197.1198.1199.1200.1201.1202.1203.1204.1205.1206.1207.1208.1209.1210.1211.1212.1213.1214.1215.1216.1217.1218.1219.1220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TELEVISION

6.00 Ceefax 6.30 BBC Breakfast News
8.55 Daytime UK
9.00 News, regional news and weather 9.05 Brainwaves. Andy Craig hosts the quiz show 9.25 Dish Of The Day. Most culinary tips for aspiring cooks from Rosemary Moon 9.30 People Today. With a phone-in on money matters
10.00 News, regional news and weather 10.05 Playdays 10.25 Rupert (r) 10.35 People Today, includes, at 10.45, Health UK. Martyn Lewis investigates passive smoking
11.00 News, regional news and weather 11.05 Kilroy. Robert Kilroy-Silk chairs a studio discussion on people obsessed with deceased stars 11.45 Before Noon. Includes the winner of today's Brainwave quiz
12.00 News, regional news and weather 12.05 Rosemary Conley's Diet and Fitness Club. A chance to tone sagging muscles after the festive season 12.20 Scene Today 12.55 Regional news and weather

1.00 One O'Clock News with Philip Hayton. Weather
1.30 Neighbours. (Ceefax) 1.50 Going For Gold. Dick Powell makes a triumphant transition from crooner to straight actor to play Raymond Chandler's world-weary private eye, Philip Marlowe, hired to search for an ex-con's missing girlfriend, Claire Trevor in the femme fatale. A stylish example of the Forties film noir which powerfully captures the sleazy Chandler world. Directed by Edward Dmytryk. (Ceefax) Northern Ireland: Open House 3.00 Wild World
3.50 Bites. How to make models from household junk 4.05 Hockey. Wolf. Carlton (r) 4.10 Jackanory. Sylvester McCoy with the second part of Ronald Dalt's *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory* 4.25 Quick Draw McGraw. Carlton 4.35 Now Then. Tony Gregory and Paul Blackwell visit a Victorian's Wall
5.00 Newsround 5.10 Grange Hill. Episode one of a new 20-part drama. (Ceefax)
5.35 Neighbours (r). (Ceefax) Northern Ireland: Sportsweek 5.40 Inside Liller
6.00 Six O'Clock News with Peter Sissons and Anne Ford. Weather
6.30 Regional News Magazines. Northern Ireland: Neighbours
7.00 Holiday 91. A new series begins with a look at bed-and-breakfast as an alternative way of visiting the Soviet Union. (Ceefax)
7.30 EastEnders. (Ceefax)
8.00 Dad's Army. Jimmy Perry and David Croft's classic comedy (r). (Ceefax)
8.30 A Question Of Sport. David Coleman referees as captain Bill Beaumont and Ian Botham battle it out in this popular quiz of sporting knowledge, including, among others, Steve Backley, Dean Saunders, Laura Davies and Chris Eubank. (Ceefax)
9.00 Nine O'Clock News with Martyn Lewis. (Ceefax) Regional news and weather. (Ceefax)

9.30 Sponder: The Homecoming.
 CHOICE: In a series jointly devised with Ian La Frenais, Jimmy Nail plays a rumpled and truculent undercover detective who is sent back to his native north after a difference of opinion with his superiors in the south. Since he had done his best to escape his roots he is not best pleased, but the homecoming allows the series to be anchored in the world it has (not to mention Nail and La Frenais) knows best. Tonight, at least, detection, involving a crooked businessman and a stolen car racket, is secondary to the establishment of setting and character. Coppers who throw away the rule book and infuriate their bosses are no strangers to television crime series but Nail's Sponder shows every sign of being able to bring the type up to date. He is helped tonight by a La Frenais script which combines an attractively satirical view of the north east with a string of reliable wilestones. (Ceefax)
10.25 Film: Penalty Phase (1986) starring Peter Strauss and Melissa Gilbert. A compelling made-for-television drama about a respected judge whose career is thrown into disarray when he allows a vicious killer to be acquitted due to a fault in the evidence. Gale Patrick Hickman, a lawyer turned writer, provides the script. Directed by Tony Richardson. Northern Ireland: Open House 11.10 Facing Up to AIDS 11.40-12.30am Cagney and Lacey
11.55 Weather

12.00 News, regional news and weather 12.05 Rosemary Conley's Diet and Fitness Club. A chance to tone sagging muscles after the festive season 12.20 Scene Today 12.55 Regional news and weather

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RADIO

8.00 News
8.15 Stirling Stuff. A 40 Minutes tribute to Britain's national drink - tea (r). (Ceefax) 8.55 The Violin Maker. Master violin-maker Jim McKidd from County Antrim meets Stephen Grappelli (r) 9.00 The World's Worst. UK Mail Guides. King's Lynn
9.05 Daytime On Two. For science teachers 9.30 GCSE German 9.45 Having a pet 10.00 For and five-year-olds 10.15 Learning to read 10.40 Lie and accusations 11.00 Weather forecasting 11.15 A young married couple discuss the drawbacks of living in Moscow 11.35 Science drama series for seven to nine-year-olds 11.55 Rehearsing a musical 12.15 Bridge building 12.35 French magazine for beginners 12.55 Effective communication 1.20 Mr Benn 1.40 Tracing the family tree
2.00 News and weather followed by You and Me (r)
2.15 Darts. The world professional championship from the Lakeside Country Club, Frimley Green
2.35 See Hear! The magazine programme for the deaf community (r)
3.00 News and weather followed by Darts. Further coverage of the Embassy world professional championship 3.50 News, regional news and weather
4.00 Catchword. Paul Cole hosts the word quiz
4.30 Behind the Headlines. Lloyd Grossman and Robert Robinson are joined by Germaine Greer and Lesley Abela to discuss war rhetoric, Crufts and how to keep your man
5.00 Gardens By Design. In the new series, garden designer David Stevens gives tips and advice on how to make your "outside room" (Ceefax)
5.30 Film: Arrowhead (1983) starring Charlton Heston and Jack Palance. An army scout has a deep distrust of the Apaches despite their peaceful motives, and his feelings appear to be justified when a small cavalry corps is ambushed and their colonel killed. Routine Western, directed by Charles Marquis Warren
7.10 Cricket: Third Test. Richie Benaud introduces highlights of the final day's play in the game in Sydney between Australia and England
7.40 Black Britain: Rise Of Racism. The second of the six-part documentary series charting the emergence of the black community in Britain. In 1919, gangs of white thugs roamed the Liverpool streets attacking any blacks they came across. Ernest Marks, a volunteer during the first world war, explains that after the war and the demobilising process, Marks' will be looking for blacks that had served in both the army and navy, many of them voluntarily. The programme also shows the violence of 1919, the colour bar, the 1950 riots in Notting Hill and the growth of "institutionalised racism". Events such as these had a direct impact on the lives of black people and led to the deterioration of relationships between them and the police
8.30 Food and Drink. Chris Kelly, Jill Goodwin and Michael Barry start the New Year with a simple-to-cook healthy fish dish and Antonio Carluccio, Italian restaurateur and author, begins a three-part trip to Spain
9.00 Twin Peaks. After the hype preceding the first series, there emerged a quirky but immensely watchable drama which ended with more cliff hangers than a team of assassins. As a reward for surviving the three-week absence, David Lynch's soap opera returns with a feature-length episode. Marks' will be looking for some answers such as who shot Special Agent Dale Cooper and has he survived? Has the fire at the sawmill claimed any victims? Who tried to kill Dr Jacoby? Why did Hank shoot Leo? And the \$54,000 question, what is Benjamin Horne going to do when he finds out that his daughter, Audrey has become a "hostess" at One Eyed Jack's and has she unwittingly asked for her "services"? (Ceefax)
10.30 Newsnight with Jeremy Paoleson
11.15 Darts. Tony Gubbs introduces more action from the World professional championship 12.15 Weather
12.20am Behind the Headlines. See 4.30. Ends at 12.55

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BUSINESS

TUESDAY JANUARY 8 1991

Executive Editor
David Brewerton

● BUSINESS AND FINANCE 17-21
● LAW 22,23
● SPORT 28-30

Norton 'puzzled' by DTI enquiry

NORTON Group, the motorcycle manufacturer and specialist engineering company, has said it is "puzzled" by the trade and industry department's appointment of inspectors to investigate its affairs.

The DTI refused to give reasons for the appointment of the officials, who met directors yesterday. Earlier in the day Norton had announced that part of the payment due from underwriters of its £6.5 million rights issue would be delayed until 3 pm today. The payment was due in full last Friday.

Temper, page 19

Irru factory for the Gulf

Thirsty squaddies in the desert this spring can look forward to a plentiful supply of Tizer and Irru once AG Barr, the Glasgow soft drinks manufacturer, has its own franchised factory in Saudi Arabia up and running.

Barr, which reports pre-tax profits ahead 49 per cent in the year to October 27, has long supplied its products to the armed services through the Naafi, and container loads have already been sent to the UN troops in the Gulf. It has also supplied Middle Eastern countries with various fruit squashes.

Robin Barr, the chairman, hopes the first cans and bottles of Tizer and Irru will roll off the production lines in time for the end of Ramadan this spring.

Barr's final dividend is increased to 12.35p, making a total up from 13p to 15.6p, and there is a two for one scrip issue.

Temper, page 19

Carco payout

Carco Engineering Group is paying a 10 per cent higher interim dividend of 1.71p after pre-tax profits of £4.31 million (£3.96 million) for the six months ended September 30. The group says, however, that the economic outlook is still unfavourable.

Temper, page 19

THE POUND

US dollar 1.9055 (-0.0285)

German mark 2.9231 (+0.0124)

Exchange index 93.8 (-0.4)

STOCK MARKET

FT 30 Share 1647.8 (-11.7)

FT-SE 100 2113.3 (-12.8)

New York Dow Jones 2541.83 (-24.26)

Tokyo Nikkei Ave 23736.57 (-332.51)

Closing Prices ... Page 21

Major indices and major changes Page 20

INTEREST RATES

London: Bank Base: 14%

3-month interbank 13 1/2% - 13 3/4%

3-month eligible bills 13 1/2% - 13 3/4%

US: Prime Rate 9 1/4%

Federal Funds 6 1/4%

3-month Treasury Bills 6.50-6.48%

30-year bonds 10 1/2% - 10 3/4%

CURRENCIES

London: New York

E: \$1.9055 E: \$1.9057

E: DM1.5330 E: DM1.5330

E: Sfr2.4619 E: Sfr2.4619

E: FF5.2015 E: FF5.2015

E: Yen136.53 E: Yen136.53

E: Index: 93.8 E: Index: 93.8

ECU 10.7026/9 ECU 10.7026/9

ECU 10.7026/9 ECU 10.7026/9

GOLD

London: 381.00 (+3.91)

close 381.00-391.50 (205.25-205.50)

New York: 383.25-383.75

NORTH SEA OIL

Brent (Jan) ... \$25.75 bid (\$23.60)

TOURIST RATES

Bank Rates

NatWest must put \$100m into US loss-maker

By NEIL BENNETT, BANKING CORRESPONDENT

NATIONAL Westminster Bank is being forced to inject at least \$100 million into its loss-making American banking arm within two weeks.

The money is needed to cover property bad debt provisions of the type that caused the collapse of the Bank of New England at the weekend.

Federal regulators are examining NatWest Bancorp's loan books to determine the level of provisions needed against non-performing loans.

John Tugwell, head of NatWest's international division, said that once the annual audit is complete, the bank will bolster the share capital by as much as \$300 million. The money is also needed to cover the bank's large Third World debt provisions in 1989.

This is the second capital injection NatWest has been forced to make into the New Jersey-based Bancorp in six months. In June, NatWest transferred \$200 million after the subsidiary announced \$90.2 million first-quarter losses.

NatWest Bancorp lost \$126 million in the first nine months of last year and is thought to have continued to suffer from heavy provision in the final quarter.

Up to \$2 billion of NatWest Bancorp's \$16 billion loan book is committed to property. The bank was protected from a worse result after deciding in the late Eighties to restrict its property lending to 15 per cent of the total. The Bank of New England's exposure was almost double.

Mr Tugwell said NatWest

had stopped doing business in the interbank market with the Bank of New England a year ago and is unaffected by its collapse on Sunday.

Like NatWest, other British banks with American subsidiaries have suffered from the collapse in the American property market which caused the Bank of New England's failure. Last November, Mark Hely Hutchinson, chief executive of the Bank of Ireland, resigned after announcing a £132 million half-year loss at the bank's First New Hampshire subsidiary.

In the third quarter, the losses fell to £23 million. "The second half of the year was better than the first," said Michael Meagher, the finance director. "We believe we identified the problems and took the pain earlier. We believe 1991 will be better than 1990."

Mr Meagher said banks in New England had been forced to make risky loans to property developers in the Eighties after the New York money

centres captured most of the corporate lending business.

In September, Royal Bank of Scotland bought Old Colony, the Rhode Island subsidiary of the Bank of New England with assets of \$600 million, to expand Citizens Financial, its American division.

Charles Winter, the bank's chief executive, said Citizens was not suffering to the same extent as the Bank of New England. "The shape of the loan book is totally different. Citizens is not heavily exposed to commercial real estate," he said. In November, the bank reported that profits at Citizens fell 32 per cent to £15 million due to higher provisions. Mr Winter said he was not interested in buying any more of the Bank of New England to expand Citizens. "It would be a job too difficult for the management to take on," he said.

Bank action, page 7
Leading article, page 9
Wall Street, page 28

Bank seeks reassurance over London branch

FROM PHILIP ROBINSON IN NEW YORK



Seidman: seeking buyer

THE Bank of England has sought reassurance from the Bank of New England's London manager that the weekend collapse of the New England Bank Corporation will not affect the British branch.

A spokesman in Boston said: "We told the Bank of England it was business as usual. The banks are working normally, but they are now

under US government control."

Three banking subsidiaries - the Bank of New England, the Connecticut Bank and Trust, and Maine National Bank - make up the Bank of New England Corporation and are now up for sale.

William Seidman, chairman of the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, announced at the weekend that

the FDIC had seized the assets.

A spokesman for the FDIC said: "We would like to sell the banks as one package and we are not ruling out any possible buyers, either American or European. If we can't sell them in one piece, then we will have to think again."

More than \$750 million of public money has been pumped into the three as part

of a rescue that could eventually cost \$3 billion. The FDIC says that between \$3 billion and \$6 billion of the assets might be worthless.

Banking analysts say the government will use tactics to save the banks similar to those employed when Texas Banks collapsed almost a decade ago: they will persuade financially healthier banks to take them over.

Oil and dollar benefit from Gulf confusion

By OUR CITY STAFF

THE dollar jumped on the foreign exchange markets as the confusing diplomatic war of words heightened dealers' fears that hostilities are about to break out in the Gulf.

The main loser was the mark, which was also pushed lower by news that Moscow is to send more troops to the Baltic states, arousing concern for serious Soviet unrest.

War fears drove the price of oil up \$2 a barrel, reversing three consecutive days of falls last week. In London February Brent traded at \$25.85,

against \$23.56 on Friday, while in New York energy futures rose \$2.30 to \$27.20.

However, despite the proximity of the UN deadline for the withdrawal of Iraq from Kuwait, oil prices remain substantially below last year's peak of about \$42 a barrel.

Markets are affected by an overhang of crude already on tankers from the Gulf bound for Europe and America and by further increases in production by Opec.

Though ending almost 3 cents lower against the dollar

at \$1.9035, the pound moved 1.32 pence higher to finish at DM2.9239, and improved enough against other ERM currencies to climb off the bottom of the parity grid.

This was the first time since October that sterling closed without the status of being the weakest unit in the system, having overtaken France and Denmark. Sterling's trade-weighted index finished at 93.8, down 0.4.

The dollar achieved its best level since October against the mark, at DM1.5315 in London, against Friday's DM1.5068 close. The yen also lost heavily against the dollar, ending at 136.70.

In the money markets, also overshadowed by Gulf developments, dealers closely monitored sterling's advance against the mark for indications of how soon the Chancellor will be able to cut base rates. The key three-month interbank rate closed unchanged at 13-15/16 per cent.

● An obvious casualty of any outbreak of war in the Gulf is the £2.7 billion flotation of National Power and PowerGen, the two electricity generators, due over the next two months. The energy department confirmed yesterday that any collapse in the stock market would mean the issue would be reconsidered.

Comment, page 19

New car monthly figures fall 27%

By KEVIN EASON
MOTORING CORRESPONDENT

THE pace of decline in the new-car market is accelerating, with a 27.58 per cent drop in sales last month bringing a gloomy end to the year for manufacturers.

Sales in 1990 just broke the two million mark at 2,008,934, 12.69 per cent down on last year's 2.3 million record.

Manufacturers are concerned that the rate of decline has been increasing in the last few months, culminating in December registrations falling from 86,769 in the same month of 1989 to 62,837.

Car makers predict a further sales drop to about 1.9 million this year unless interest rates are eased and the economy starts to pull out of recession.

Simon Foster, director of the Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders, said: "The fall in sales has accelerated towards the end of the year and this trend seems likely to persist in the immediate future."

Although Ford cars were first, second and fourth in the list of best sellers, the company saw its sales drop from 608,617 to 507,260.

Vauxhall suffered a fall in sales from 349,901 to 323,054, while Rover dipped from 312,306 to 281,385.

Polly Peck administrators face Northern Cyprus trip

By ANGELA MACKAY

POLLY PECK International's administrators may have to return to the courts in northern Cyprus to force the release of more information. Access has been refused since Asil Nadir, Polly Peck's chairman, was charged last month with fraud and false accounting.

Michael Jordan, one of the company's three administrators, met last week with

Kenan Atakol, the unofficial republic's finance minister, to try to resolve the impasse. Mr Jordan was confident that the government would support the administrators.

The administrators hope to present Polly Peck's bankers with a plan to keep the company intact, but this is being hampered by uncooperation in Northern Cyprus.

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All diamond sales need is love

By COLIN CAMPBELL

LOVE, not war, is what De Beers, the world's premier diamond group, needs if this year is to turn up something more exciting than last year's 1.98 per cent increase in rough diamond sales handled by the Central Selling Organisation.

Rough (uncut) diamond sales of \$4.167 billion last year compare with sales of \$4.086 billion in 1989, but remain shy of 1988's record \$4.172 billion.

In South African currency, CSO sales were 1.28 per cent higher, at R10.79 billion (R10.66 billion), and benefiting from exchange-rate movements, registered a new rand record.

But the uncertainty of prospects is evident from the 31.8 per cent downturn in CSO sales between the first and second half. In the first half of last year, diamond sales were \$2.477 billion. In the

second, CSO sales fell to \$1.69 billion - the lowest half-year result since 1987 - as the international economic climate deteriorated and Gulf events turned for the worse.

De Beers had earlier said 1990 would be a year of consolidation after record 1988 figures and strong sales in 1989. It now concedes that there remains an air of caution, that the CSO continues to match supply with demand patterns at its "sights", and that indications from the traditionally busy retail Christmas period suggest diamond jewellery sales over the festive period were "patchy".

De Beers' share price, which only recently dipped below £10, was 975p yesterday.

Last year, De Beers Centenary, the Swiss company, was established in May to hold all non-South African interests. By mid-year, De Beers officials had finished walking the steps of Russia

and in July announced an exclusive five-year \$5 billion sales contract and a \$1 billion advance to Glavalmazoloto, the USSR's department of precious metals and minerals.

In December, De Beers Centenary signed a deal with the Angolan state company Endiama to market the entire production of the Cuango region and to lead Endiama \$50 million to extend Cuango's alluvial production.

In addition, an exploration and mining agreement was signed whereby De Beers will spend at least \$50 million over five years prospecting for new primary sources and on the evaluation of an area in northeastern Angola. Such exploration work could lead to the discovery of the diamond "pipe", which would be another breakthrough.

But as Gulf worries intensify, love alone will determine whether diamonds will sparkle more brightly this year.

Target sold by TSB at loss of £200m

By OUR BANKING CORRESPONDENT

THE TSB Group has sold Target Life to Equity & Law at a loss of more than £200 million after admitting that the life assurance subsidiary suffered a deficit of more than £55 million last year.

Equity is reported to be taking control of Target in a break-up operation for an initial payment of less than £5 million, less than the most pessimistic forecasts for the disposal. TSB is also being forced to continue managing Target's 330,000 existing policies and its commercial lending portfolio.

This leaves Equity, the British subsidiary of Axa-Midi, the French insurance group, free to use Target's 700 salesforce to combine with its existing 1,300 representatives to market its own policies.

The TSB bought Target for £227 million in August 1987 at the height of the bull market. This was TSB's first acquisition after arriving on the stock market. Since then, a series of losses and write-offs has reduced the company's book value to £55 million.

In a statement yesterday, TSB admitted that in the year to end-October Target had suffered further provisions and losses of more than £55 million. These losses will be written off in an extraordinary provision when the bank presents its preliminary results on Thursday.

"If you put together a fast-deteriorating economy and a company on the block," said Don McCread, TSB's chief executive, "this sort of performance is going to happen."

While Equity takes over Target's share capital, the TSB will still manage Target's funds of £1.4 billion and run down its policy portfolio. Equity has agreed to make further payments depending on Target's performance, the repayment of inter-company debt, and the profits TSB makes from Target's existing policies portfolio. The total payout is secret, but is likely to be less than £25 million.

The TSB has been trying to sell Target since early last year, and was originally hoping to complete the sale by last autumn. The group's failure to sell Target at anywhere near the price it originally expected demonstrates the complete collapse in the value of financial businesses since the start of the recession.

British Coal director calls for rapid privatisation

Ferrari shares firmed 1p to 11p, while Touchstone slipped 1p to 4p.

He rejected suggestions that British Coal should be privatised. The executive criticised British Coal's dependence on

Walter Eltis: training key to boosting competitiveness

Its banks, led by Banque Bruxelles Lambert, were asked for additional support but instead opted to call in receivers to the L&PT subsidiary winding-up petition lifted."

L&PT, which is run by Berish Berger, is disputing the VAT bill. It says Point West should be treated as new construction and be zero rated for VAT.

cellor.
● *Training and Competitiveness* is published by Kogan Page. It is available from Nedo Books, Millbank Tower, Millbank, London ESW1 4OX. price £22.50

THAI Airways International, the national flag carrier of Thailand, announced pre-tax profits of \$270 million for the year to September, against record profits of \$296 million the previous year. Both revenue and passengers carried rose to record levels during the year. The airline, which is due to be partly privatised this year, blamed the sharp increase in fuel prices for reduced profits.

Mr Fehrer refused to rule out a dividend cut, but denied there was any need for the Swiss banks to raise the mortgage rate. All the main Swiss banks have been hurt by rising world interest rates and the slump in stock markets since the invasion of Kuwait in August. In December SBC took the unprecedented step for a Swiss bank of announcing a 5 per cent cost-cutting programme that could lead to up to 500 job losses.

is down at 93.8 (day's range 93.6-93.8).

[illegible]

Index	Value	Daily ch'ge (%)	Yearly ch'ge (%)	Daily ch'ge (%)	Yearly ch'ge (%)	Daily ch'ge (US\$)	Yearly ch'ge (US\$)	Index	Value
The World	567.2	-0.1	-32.8	-0.7	-24.2	-1.9	-20.7	France	562.9
(free)	108.5	-0.1	-32.7	-0.8	-24.2	-1.9	-20.7	Germany	865.4
EAFE	974.4	-0.8	-37.6	-1.0	-31.8	-2.5	-26.2	Hong Kong	1855.7
(free)	100.2	-0.8	-37.5	-1.1	-31.7	-2.5	-26.2	Italy	254.9
Europe	582.8	-1.4	-43.4	-1.3	-20.5	-3.1	-9.6	Japan	3297.3
(free)	126.1	-1.4	-43.1	-1.3	-20.5	-3.1	-9.6	Netherlands	726.7
Nth America	413.3	1.0	-23.2	-0.8	-9.4	-0.8	-9.4	New Zealand	53.0
Nordic	1033.2	-1.5	-33.6	-1.5	-29.4	-3.3	-21.7	Norway	1067.9
(free)	169.4	-1.8	-28.0	-1.7	-22.6	-3.6	-15.0	(free)	188.5
Pacific	2167.6	-0.3	-45.3	-0.7	-38.4	-2.1	-35.5	Sing/Malaysia	1461.0
Far East	3144.3	-0.3	-45.7	-0.8	-38.0	-2.1	-35.9	Spain	183.7
Australia	224.3	1.2	-35.4	-0.4	-12.4	-0.6	-23.8	Sweden	1079.1
Austria	1243.2	-2.5	-16.3	-2.4	-10.5	-4.3	-1.3	(free)	158.4
Belgium	676.0	-1.9	-31.3	-1.7	-26.0	-3.6	-19.0	Switzerland	686.0
Canada	426.3	1.3	-29.0	-0.3	-16.5	-0.5	-16.3	(free)	104.7
Denmark	1009.2	-1.9	-23.3	-1.4	-18.8	-3.6	-9.6	UK	623.2
Finland	63.0	-0.5	-45.4	-0.5	-41.3	-2.3	-36.6	USA	373.7

Exchange index compared with 1985 was down at 93.8 (day's range 93.6-93.8).

STERLING SPOT AND FORWARD RATES					OTHER STERLING RATES		DOLLAR SPOT RATES	
	Range	Close	1 month	3 month				
6-Month Rate for Jan 78					Argentina austral*	11107.0-11330.0	1.7406-1.7424	
New York	1.9015-1.9120	1.9090-1.9100	1.12-1.11	2.87-2.85	Australia dollar	2.4548-2.4595	1.7890-1.7876	
London	1.9015-1.9120	1.9090-1.9100	0.54-0.51	1.25-1.24	Bahian dollar	1.9015-1.9120	1.7890-1.7876	
Frankfurt	3.2814-3.2874	3.2827-3.2874	1W-1W	9W-9W	Brazil cruzeiro	992.00-992.80	2.7310-2.7320	
Geneva	59.61-60.30	60.01-60.32	30-31P	90-91P	Cyprus pound	0.821-0.825	1.1395-1.1415	
Paris	11.8867-11.9008	11.8933-11.9000	30-31P	90-91P	Denmark kroner	1.9015-1.9120	1.7890-1.7876	
Frankfurt	1.0897-1.0903	1.0893-1.0900	3W-3W	90-90P	Greece drachma	302.50-301.00	5.0080-0.0101	
London	2.9105-2.9248	2.9212-2.9248	1W-1W	3W-3W	Hong Kong dollar	14.8288-14.8337	5.0090-5.0141	
Paris	75.275-75.28131	75.275-75.28131	30-31P	90-91P	India rupee	34.75-34.75	1.7890-1.7876	
Madrid	183.83-185.35	184.20-185.17	par-3W	10-10P	Kuwait dinar K.O.	34.75-34.75	1.7890-1.7876	
London	16.815-16.91739	16.9127-16.9154	5-1P	10-10P	Malaysia dollar	5.1734-5.1761	1.7890-1.7876	
Paris	11.477-11.4774	11.477-11.4774	10-10P	10-10P	Mexico peso	21.4224-21.4224	1.7890-1.7876	
Geneva	0.8827-0.8945	0.8900-0.8945	3W-3W	8W-8W	New Zealand dollar	3.2155-3.2222	1.7890-1.7876	
London	10.8676-10.8647	10.8699-10.8647	5W-5W	8W-8W	Saudi Arabian riyal	3.3549-3.3549	1.7890-1.7876	
Paris	20.03-20.0303	20.03-20.0303	10-10P	10-10P	Switzerland franc	2.00-2.00	1.7890-1.7876	
London	20.46-20.58	20.52-20.52	8W-7W	22W-19W	Taiwan dollar	3.3549-3.3549	1.7890-1.7876	
Paris	2.4934-2.4934	2.4934-2.4934	1W-1W	3-3W	U.A.R. naira (n.)	4.9710-4.9998	1.7890-1.7876	
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Prime Rates: Clearing Banks 14 Finance Hse 14
Discount Market Loans: Overnight high: 14% Low 13% Week End: 13%

[illegible]

Bullion: Open \$390.00-390.50	Close \$391.00-391.50	German Govt Bond	Mar 91	82.25	82.25	81.00	81.05	84.00
High \$392.30-392.70	Low \$390.00-390.50	Previous open interest 7,280	Jun 91	82.10	82.20	82.10	82.15	

Platinum: \$415.50 (\$218.80) Palladium: \$84.50 (\$44.55)	Silver: \$4.285 (\$2.234)	Three month ECU Previous open interest: 1235	Mar 91 ... 89.52 89.58 89.45 89.48 Jun 91 ... 89.38 89.26 89.22 89.22	13 3
T TRUSTS		COMMODITIES		

Mar	651-650	Jan	805-804	C	207.0-25.0
May	805-805	Mar	582-581	May	207.0-25.0
Jul	718-715	May	718-713	Jul	207.0-25.0

[illegible]

Jan	25.80-26.90	Mar	26.00-26.00
Feb	25.90-26.70	Apr	26.00-26.00

[illegible][illegible]

UNLISTED SECURITIES

1980/81						1980/81						1980/81					
High Low Company		Price Bid Offer	Change dr p	Open	Vol	High Low Company		Price Bid Offer	Change dr p	Open	Vol	High Low Company		Price Bid Offer	Change dr p	Open	Vol
24	197	197				32	202	202				107	107	107			
25	197	197				33	202	202				107	107	107			
26	197	197				34	202	202				107	107	107			
27	197	197				35	202	202				107	107	107			
28	197	197				36	202	202				107	107	107			
29	197	197				37	202	202				107	107	107			
30	197	197				38	202	202				107	107	107			
31	197	197				39	202	202				107	107	107			
32	197	197				40	202	202				107	107	107			
33	197	197				41	202	202				107	107	107			
34	197	197				42	202	202				107	107	107			
35	197	197				43	202	202				107	107	107			
36	197	197				44	202	202				107	107	107			
37	197	197				45	202	202				107	107	107			
38	197	197				46	202	202				107	107	107			
39	197	197				47	202	202				107	107	107			
40	197	197				48	202	202				107	107	107			
41	197	197				49	202	202				107	107	107			
42	197	197				50	202	202				107	107	107			
43	197	197				51	202	202				107	107	107			
44	197	197				52	202	202				107	107	107			
45	197	197				53	202	202				107	107	107			
46	197	197				54	202	202				107	107	107			
47	197	197				55	202	202				107	107	107			
48	197	197				56	202	202				107	107	107			
49	197	197				57	202	202				107	107	107			
50	197	197				58	202	202				107	107	107			
51	197	197				59	202	202				107	107	107			
52	197	197				60	202	202				107	107	107			
53	197	197				61	202	202				107	107	107			
54	197	197				62	202	202				107	107	107			
55	197	197				63	202	202				107	107	107			
56	197	197				64	202	202				107					

[illegible]

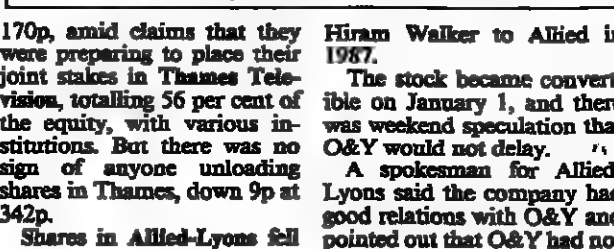
هكذا في الأصل

ADT prepared to write off £35m loss in Christies

MAJOR INDICES	
New York:	
Dow Jones	2541.92 (-24.26)
S&P Composite	318.05 (-2.95)*
Nickel Average	237.56 (-3.32)
Hong Kong:	
Hang Seng	3026.52 (-20.09)
Shanghai Stock	925.40 (-21.78)
Americas chart:	
CDS Tendency	783.2 (-1.7)
Futures: ADX	123.0 (+0.5)
Futures: DAX	1358.18 (-37.91)
Currencies:	
General	4622.05 (-82.38)
Yen: DM	412.70 (-0.53)
Yen: SGA Gm	446.8 (-1.8)
London:	
T-A All-Share	1017.82 (-5.59)
FTSE 100	1122.93 (-4.00)
T-Gold Mines	167.5 (+0.5)
T-Fixed Interest	90.93 (+0.8)
T-Govt Secs	82.98 (+0.02)
Commodity:	
BEAD Volume	3156.9
BEAD (Datsaveem)	107.57 (-1.08)

*Denotes latest trading price

There was talk of several profit downgradings that failed to materialise. There EMI fell 5p to 674p, and BET 1p to



RECENT ISSUES

[illegible]

Reuters, the international news agency and financial information group, rose 6p to

£322 million for the year just ended, followed by £350 million for the current year and £420 million in 1992.

MICHAEL CLARK

New York
BLUE chips lost more ground during early trading, amid increased investor worry over the American banking system and the possibility of war in the Middle East.

MAJOR CHANGES

RISES:

[illegible]

RISES:
Telling 100½¢ (+10¢)

Gleco	8171ps (+7p)
Thomson Corp	746p (+10p)
WPP	80p (+10p)
Reuters	589p (+8p)
Domino	180p (+10p)
FALLS:	
Cable & Wireless	448p (-11p)
Sun Alliance	321ps (-5p)
Commercial Union	453ps (-5p)
Telecom Rand	642ps (-2p)
Wellcome	537ps (-8p)
British	420p (-5p)
Kellogg Ind	407 1/2p (-5p)
J Sainsbury	450p (-10p)
Elys (Wimbledon)	950p (-25p)
Rank Org	589p (-10p)
Chesterfield	510p (-15p)
Fraser & Neave	288p (-10p)
High Point	312 1/2p (-10p)
Grainger	140p (-10p)
Colson's prices	

Pelican Gp

Library Resources	37	Protestus Inc	85
Libertarian Smlr Cos	38	Sutton Healthcare	86-87
President Pkwy	39	St James Place	87-88
MMW Group	31+39	Smaller IT	87-88
Securities Cairn (Sip)	32	Stair Platform	87-88
ICU Tel	41	Stn Gwth	84-85
PM Javis Tel	41	Use Energy	110-111
Sidos	91	Unicom	86
Smithbar Up	44	Unichem	116-117
Robur Print	145	Wig Tee App	161
Golden Voice	46		
Evergreen	137		
Evercrest	94-95		
Everest	19		
Malaysia Capital	100		
Midland Radio	100		
Merament	96		
Merchandise	96		
	96-97		

(Asset prices in brackets.)

[illegible]

The prices in this section refer

to Friday's trading

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Leaving the law to the experts

Should indictable offences, such as road traffic ones, be graded according to their degree of villainy? For example, ten points for murder, nine for rape, four for unlawful wounding and one for theft in the form of shoplifting? Professor Andrew Ashworth, writing in this column on November 27 last year, thought there should be relative sentencing levels and that a sentencing council composed of a broader-based body than the senior judiciary should decide what the appropriate levels should be.

The Criminal Justice Bill envisages that the Court of Appeal will establish relativities in sentencing lengths between the various types of crime. The tariff method of sentencing, which has evolved as a result of years of judicial experience, and which from time to time is modified by the Court of Appeal in the light of new legislation and changing social thinking, has established broad levels of relativity. A judge having to sentence a gang for armed robbery of a bank knows what level of sentences to impose because the Court of Appeal in the Wembley Bank case in 1975 identified an appropriate range of sentences.

Since 1970, the Court of Appeal in at least 25 cases has set out sentencing guidelines for crimes, ranging from rape to welfare benefit frauds. Are more than guidelines required? There are dangers in sentencing becoming



Sir Frederick Lawton rebuts arguments that grades of sentencing should be regulated by a broader-based body than the senior judiciary

entangled with moral principles that purport to identify some crimes as more heinous than others. The example that Professor Ashworth gave in support of his concept of relative levels of gravity, namely contrasting a sentence of five years for rape without aggravating circumstances with a sentence of the same length on a persistent pickpocket, illustrates the inherent problems.

Rape is probably the most heinous offence after murder, but there is only one victim. A persistent pickpocket has many victims; some may be seriously

inconvenienced, others only slightly. However, what makes this kind of crime so serious is the damage that it does to public well-being and to the reputation of cities such as London. Since this criminal activity is usually carried out at bus stops and Underground platforms, confidence in public transport and order is weakened and tourists are likely to regard the United Kingdom as lawless and a country to be avoided. Comparing rape with this kind of crime is not a useful activity. Both have to be dealt with severely.

The practical difficulties of try-

ing to establish relativity levels are shown by Professor Ashworth's other comparison. A sentence of five years for persistent pickpocketing, he says inaccurately, is twice the normal sentence for attacking a victim with a broken glass in a pub. In practice, there is no normal sentence for this kind of offence, which is known colloquially as glassing. There is a good reason why there is no norm. The circumstances can, and do, vary from an immediate reaction to a verbal insult to a vicious, premeditated attack with intent to cause serious injury. For the latter kind of offence a sentence of five years or more would be justified.

As a judge I tried many cases of this kind. No two were ever the same. When there was a conviction, I had to sentence on the basis of the jury's decision as to the accused's intent and my assessment of the evidence.

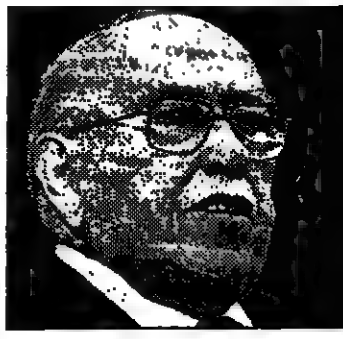
Another example of the difficulty of setting up relative levels of sentencing for different kinds of crime is provided by theft in the form of shoplifting, probably the most common kind of theft. The offenders range from women suffering from acute mental strain,

such as in the case of the late Lady Barnett, to those who join gangs engaged in pillaging shops.

The first kind usually receive help from the court, the second severe sentences, the object of which may be not so much deterrence, as prevention. While persistent offenders are in prison they cannot commit further offences.

Finding members of a sentencing council who would have had as much experience of dealing with crime as the senior judiciary would be difficult. Senior police officers would probably be unacceptable to Parliament and the public. Academic criminologists? Analysis of criminal statistics and the study of law reports of cases that have gone to appeal are no substitute for sitting in court listening to the human stories that all cases present. Probation officers? The sociological opinions that some of them have would probably not be filed by right-thinking members of the public. Social workers? They see what is happening to the deprived situation and what misery criminals can cause them, but they are unlikely to have had any experience of organised or white-collar crime. Parliament, having decided what the sentencing policy should be, would be well advised to leave the Court of Appeal to implement the policy.

● The author was a Lord Justice of Appeal from 1972 to 1986.



Sir Frederick Lawton

'There are dangers in sentencing being linked to moral principles that purport to identify some crimes as more heinous than others'

Court of Appeal

Law Report January 8 1991

Court of Appeal

Setting aside foreign judgment for fraud

Owens Bank Ltd v Bracco and another (No 2)

Before Sir Peter Pain

[Judgment November 9]

Where it was sought to set aside registration of a foreign judgment on the ground that it had been obtained by fraud, there had to be sufficient fresh evidence to support the allegation, although such evidence was not required to satisfy the test laid down in *Ladd v Marshall* (1954) 1 WLR 1489, in the sense that it did not have to be evidence which was unavailable at the trial.

Sir Peter Pain, sitting as a judge of the High Court to hold in the Queen's Bench Division when giving judgment in open court after a hearing in chambers.

His Lordship adjourned a summons by the plaintiffs, Owens Bank Ltd, seeking registra-

tion in the High Court of a judgment of the Saint Vincent and the Grenadines High Court entered on January 29, 1988, and directed that there was an issue to be tried on a summons by the defendants, Dr Fulvio Bracco and Bracco Industria Chimica SpA, to set aside registration.

Mr Martin Mann, QC and Mr Michael Gadd for the plaintiffs; Miss Barbara Dohmann, QC and Mr Thomas Beazley for the defendants.

SIR PETER PAIN said that the issue was whether the defendants could establish an arguable case that the judgment of the Saint Vincent court had been obtained by fraud. The question was whether his Lordship should accede to the plaintiffs' application to register or whether he should direct an issue to be tried under Order 71,

rule 9 of the Rules of the Supreme Court.

In *McIlkenny v Chief Constable of the West Midlands* ([1980] QB 283, 333) it was said that "where the issue at the first trial was which of two parties or their witnesses was committing perjury, it is not sufficient merely to aver that the judgment was obtained by perjury since that is no more than to say the decision ought to have gone the other way. There must be sufficient fresh evidence to support the allegation."

Although that was an English case, to his Lordship's mind that principle applied to a foreign judgment. The defendants' case was that the fresh evidence was admissible and was of sufficient quality to justify the ordering of an enquiry.

The plaintiffs' case was that the evidence was inadmissible

on the ground that it was not fresh evidence as the same was defined in *Ladd v Marshall*. They said that it was available to the defendants at the trial had they shown reasonable diligence and they could not be allowed to call it to re-open the question of fraud.

As his Lordship saw it, the development of the law had been that first of all *Bank of Australia v Niaz* (1981) 16 QB 717 had decided that a foreign judgment was conclusive, although it had made an exception in the case of fraud.

The next stage had been *Abouloff v Oppenheimer* (1882) LR 10 QBD 295, which had decided that an unsuccessful party could seek to set aside a foreign judgment in the English courts for fraud even if that meant going over the same ground.

Third, *Syal v Heyward* ([1948] 2 KB 443) had placed upon the party setting up such a fraud the burden of establishing a *prima facie* case and, fourth, *McIlkenny*, albeit an English decision, had decided that for the purposes of establishing a *prima facie* case the applicant had to do more than ask for a retrial but had to produce some fresh evidence. The fresh evidence did not need to be confined to what is fresh evidence within what his Lordship would call by way of shorthand the *Ladd v Marshall* principles.

Having referred to the evidence his Lordship held that the defendants had established a *prima facie* case that the judgment had been obtained by fraud, and therefore directed that an issue be tried.

Solicitors: Charles Russell Williams & Jones; Clifford Chance.

Retrospective recovery of overpaid benefit

Secretary of State for Social Security and another v Tunnicliffe

Before Lord Justice Mustill, Lord Justice Staughton and Lord Justice McCowan

[Judgment December 13]

Provisions for the recovery of amounts of overpaid social security benefits contained in section 53 of the Social Security Act 1986, that came into force on April 6, 1987, could be operated retrospectively.

Where a determination of overpayment to a widowed mother was made after April 6, 1987, in respect of benefits she had wrongly received before that date, she was to make repayment in accordance with section 53 and not under the provisions of section 119 of the Social Security Act 1975 that were in force until that date.

The Court of Appeal so held in reserved judgments allowing an appeal by the Secretary of State for Social Security and the Chief Adjudication Officer from the decision of a social security commissioner, Mr M. H. Johnson, in favour of the respondent, Mrs Sandra Tunnicliffe. He had held there was no right of recovery under section 53.

Section 53 of the 1986 Act was brought into force as from April 6, 1987, and provided: "(1) Where it is determined that a person has received an overpayment of a benefit... the secretary of state shall be entitled to recover the amount of any payment which he would not have made... but for the misrepresentation or failure to disclose."

Mr Michael Beloff, QC and Mr J. R. McManus for the secretary of state; Mr Stephen Sedley, QC and Mr Mark Rowland for Mrs Tunnicliffe.

LORD JUSTICE MUSTILL said that Mrs Tunnicliffe, a widowed mother, received an allowance under section 25 of the Social Security Act 1975. On July 28, 1986 she ceased to fulfil

the requirements for the allowance but continued to draw it. It was not suggested that in so doing she had been acting dishonestly.

In August 1987 an adjudication officer decided that the allowance had been wrongly paid to her for the period between July 22, 1986, and March 30, 1987, and that the secretary of state was entitled to recover from her the amount of the overpayment. He purported to make that determination under section 53.

Mrs Tunnicliffe appealed to a social security appeal tribunal who upheld the adjudication officer's decision. A further appeal by Mrs Tunnicliffe to Mr Commissioner Johnson was upheld on the ground that the overpayment had occurred when section 119 of the 1975 Act was still in force and which provided for repayment unless the beneficiary had "used due care and diligence to avoid overpayment."

The commissioner had gone on to conclude that as the issue of "due care and diligence" had not been addressed by the appeal tribunal the case should be remitted for further consideration by another tribunal.

The strongest argument for the secretary of state was based on the opening words of section 53 "Where it is determined that...". Those words inescapably spoke to the future, but equally inescapably looked to the past.

The contrary argument for Mrs Tunnicliffe was founded on a well-established principle of statutory interpretation that there was at common law a *prima facie* rule that a statute should not be interpreted retrospectively so as to impair an existing right: see *Yew Bon Tew v Kenderaan Bas Mara* ([1983] 1 AC 553, 558F).

In one form, that adopted by the commissioner, that principle was said to apply in the instant case. But it was not so. Mrs Tunnicliffe was on April 5, 1987 under no statutory obligation to repay the overpaid benefit. It was not until the adjudication officer's determination in August 1987 was

made that any such obligation arose. True, there might be a presumption against allowing the statute to operate against Mrs Tunnicliffe before the new standard of conduct was set by section 53. But the force of the presumption was not invariable and was to be fixed by reference to the unfairness which would stem from giving the statute a retrospective effect.

Bearing in mind that here was a claim to recover money to which Mrs Tunnicliffe had not been entitled and which she wished to keep, the presumption was weak and, if one looked at section 53, in isolation from section 119 of the 1975 Act, was clearly rebutted by the opening words.

The status of section 119 was linked with that of section 53: plainly the legislature could not have intended to leave both operating simultaneously in respect of the same overpayment. The mechanism of section 119 was all of a piece, the secretary of state's right to invoke it ceased on April 5, 1987.

That understanding of section 119 served to reinforce the view of section 53 already suggested. For if the former ceased to have effect on April 5, 1987, and no longer was available to deal with overpayments before that date, there would be a void unless section 53 was capable of being operated so as to empower and delineate the recovery of such overpayments and to govern the terms on which the recovery would be made.

Thus, on its natural meaning section 53 spoke of a future determination in relation to past events. No limit of time was expressed and none could be implied. The section simply meant what it said.

It followed that the adjudication officer and the appeal tribunal had been right to apply the mechanism of section 53 and the test which it embodied.

LORD JUSTICE STAUGHTON gave a concurring judgment and Lord Justice McCowan agreed.

Solicitors: Solicitor, Department of Social Security; Miss Vicki Chapman.

New jurisdiction point on appeal

Barber v Thames Television plc

Before Mr Justice Knox, Mr T. S. Bado and Mr A. C. Blythton

[Judgment December 4]

Where an issue arose as to how far a new point not considered before the industrial tribunal and which raised a question of jurisdiction could properly be argued in the Employment Appeal Tribunal, notwithstanding that further evidence would be needed, the appeal tribunal had to decide on balance whether justice required that the new point should be taken.

The Employment Appeal Tribunal so held when refusing to consider an alternative submission by the respondent employers that the normal retiring age for employees was 60 and that since the employee was 64 when dismissed there was no jurisdiction to hear his unfair dismissal claim by reason of section 64(1)(b) of the Employment Protection (Consolidation) Act 1978. They had argued the case on the basis that the normal retiring age was 64.

The appeal tribunal allowed an appeal by Mr Keith Barber, the employee, from a decision of a London industrial tribunal in August 1989 that they had no jurisdiction to hear his claim that he had been unfairly dismissed by his employers, Thames Television plc, on the ground that the industrial tribunal had wrongly held that there was a normal retiring age of 64.

Mr Colin Beidman for the employee; Mr Michael Supperstone for the employers.

MR JUSTICE KNOX said that the employee was a film sound development supervisor. He was born on April 3, 1925 and he was dismissed on his sixty-fourth birthday on the basis that he had reached his retiring age.

The first step to be taken in deciding whether a claimant had reached the normal retiring age for persons holding the same position was to identify those persons. The industrial tribunal had erred in selecting the appropriate group.

Had they chosen the right one the evidence showed that a substantial proportion had a normal retiring age of 60 whereas another substantial proportion had different retiring ages. Accordingly, the employers had failed to establish that section 64(1)(b) applied.

The employers sought leave to argue in the alternative that the normal retirement age was 60. That was not argued before the industrial tribunal where the claim was based on a retiring age of 64.

It was accepted that if leave was given there would have to be a remission to the industrial tribunal since the necessary evidence of fact had not been put before either tribunal. The appeal tribunal did not accept the proposition that any and every contention by a party in an appeal that by calling further evidence that party could show that the applicant's case fell outside the jurisdiction of the industrial tribunal had to be accepted.

A question of jurisdiction was

not necessarily a trump card which automatically determined the appeal in favour of the party playing that card. In each case, the tribunal had to decide on balance whether justice required that the new point should be allowed to be taken. If it appeared that the decision appealed from was a nullity that would be a consideration of overwhelming strength.

Where what was relied on was a chance of establishing a lack of jurisdiction by calling fresh evidence which had always been available, the case was far less straightforward. One factor was the nature of the jurisdictional point.

In the present case, what was sought to be established was that the employee, by reason of having attained the normal retiring age for an employee holding the position which he held, could not bring a complaint of unfair dismissal. That was a form of personal disqualification of a potential applicant which clearly went to jurisdiction.

However, the employers had elected to persuade the tribunal that the employee could not bring his claim because the normal retiring age was 64. It would not be just to allow the employers to have a second bite at the cherry by advancing an argument which had always been available.

The appeal would be allowed and the employee's claim should be heard on its merits. Solicitors: Brian Thompson & Partners; D. J. Freeman & Co.

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Silver linings among the clouds

The downturn in the economy is taking its toll on the corporate law world, with only the leading firms managing to assure themselves of a future, Edward Fennell writes

The ceaseless game of musical chairs played by the City's corporate law firms took a new turn in the second half of 1990. Figures just released to *The Times* by *Acquisitions Monthly* reveal that as the economy slowed, the chairs were removed at an ever faster rate.

The number of public takeovers in Britain undertaken by the leading 20 firms slumped from 169 in January-June to 95 in July-December. The result was that increasing numbers of corporate lawyers are left sitting on the sidelines wondering where their next job will come from.

In such straitened times, it is the lower-order firms that tend to suffer most. Meanwhile, the three leading firms in the mergers and acquisitions (M&A) field, Freshfields, Slaughter & May and Linklaters & Paines, continue to hold their own far ahead of the field.

The gaps that now separate this leading triumvirate from the chasing crowd is remarkable. The total value of the

deals in which Freshfields, Linklaters & Paines and Slaughter & May were involved during 1990 was more than £5,000 million apiece.

Meanwhile, Lovell White Durrant and Ashurst Morris Crisp, which came in fourth and fifth, were well under the £3,000 million mark. Clifford Chance, the UK's largest law firm, is down to tenth position, with barely half the number of deals and just a quarter of the value of Freshfields.

Significantly, all three leading firms were involved in the £1.8 billion acquisition of STC by Canada's Northern Telecom and the £1.1 billion bid for the Globe Investment Trust by the British Coal Pension Fund. These were the UK's two largest deals and they suggest a clear trend in which the cream of M&A work consistently goes to a tiny elite of firms.

By establishing a reputation for excellence, they have managed to assure their future. Clients on mega-deals know they cannot go wrong by coming to a firm in this supergroup. And as the volume of work goes down, these three can expect to continue to ride high.

However, there is little comfort for firms outside the top three. For some partner-



Ahead of the field: Freshfields' corporate finance team

Aside from recognising the cyclical nature of the M&A market, the best hope for the future is that 1992 will get the M&A share back on the road. Eastern Europe offers interesting opportunities and firms with German offices can hope to do reasonably well.

What is more, there may be some innovative developments in fields such as debt

restructuring, syndicated money lending and leasing as some solicitors decide to go for non-traditional markets because they face increasing competition from accountants on their own territory. The M&A figures are not the whole story, but they are vivid evidence of what lawyers must face up to in the months ahead.

Legal advisers credited where acting for a financial adviser or company in UK public takeovers

	No of deals	Value £m
1 Freshfields (2)	36	5,816
2 Linklaters & Paines (5)	25	5,510
3 Slaughter & May (1)	30	5,454
4 Lovell White Durrant (9)	9	2,756
5 Ashurst Morris Crisp (6)	26	2,701
6 Allen & Overy (4)	20	2,173
7 Norton Rose (5)	18	2,087
8 Nabarro Nathanson (10)	8	1,722
9 Herbert Smith (7)	20	1,662
10 Clifford Chance (8)	18	1,543
11 Simmons & Strimmon (12)	14	710
12 Richards Butler (15)	4	607
13 S J Berwin (-)	4	582
14 Macfarlanes (4)	3	442
15 Cameron Mackay Hewitt (11)	3	378
16 Blyth Dutton (13)	3	366
17 Dendall Hall Burgin & Winson (15)	3	286
18 McKewen & Co (-/17)	4	255
19 Gouldsons (-/17)	4	195
20 Travers Smith Smithwhite (15)	11	185

(7) Ranking for the six months to June 1990. This table is based on completed and failed offers for UK public companies, January to December 1990, and includes only those advisers involved in two or more transactions. Source: *Acquisitions Monthly* - AMDATA

Common sense demands that ways be found to reduce the cost of going to law and the delays involved. However, the intensive use of time and skill involved in proceedings, and the growing intricacies of law to be digested, mean that even if lawyers reduced their charges, going to law would still be a costly luxury.

Alternatives to the traditional process are under debate. The initials ADR (alternative dispute resolution) figure increasingly in the conversation of professionals trying to see the way ahead, and a working party of the Bar Council last July called on the government to set up pilot projects into ADR.

A feature of the reform is that a snappy acronym works wonders in making people think that what seemed an impossible dream is, if not already a reality, at least realisable. The objection to ADR, however, is that it looks for an alternative to the courts, and such

Christopher McCall, QC, on a new way to cut the cost of going to law

The quick sprint for justice

an alternative must, of necessity, be inappropriate to a vast number of cases where for one of many reasons only a tribunal with the fullest resources of the law behind it can settle the dispute.

Let us try a new set of initials. Could the answer to the mounting burdens be found in a SPRINT system? The notion of SPRINT is that it could Simplify Proceedings by Review and INtervention.

The concept is as appropriate to a court of law as to any alternative tribunal. Many say the courts already have sufficient powers to simplify their proceedings, perhaps by defining preliminary issues or splitting hearings, or by exploring aspects of the

evidence by enquiry. The reason why these powers are not often used is easy to see: when preparing hearings the court is not represented, beyond the limited supervision by a master who tends to see his role as judicial, not inquisitive.

Surely the missing link in the system is a court-appointed counsel to enquire into the probabilities impartially, on behalf of the court, and not in the inevitably partisan spirit that inspires the other parties and their representatives. If such a counsel were appointed as the "friend of the court", he could represent to the court, and to the parties, any question of fact that is more important or difficult than the

rest, and ought to be separated out because of its potential for saving time and costs, or because once that issue is determined, agreement on the rest should be possible.

He could, in appropriate cases, mediate in the hope of settling a compromise in motion; make submissions at an early stage that might indicate to the parties their risks as to costs. At the very least he could research the law and make his findings known to the parties to ensure that each has access to a single, independent view of the relevant principles and authorities.

If nothing else, he ought to be able to ensure that the parties proceed aware of all relevant factors. In

many cases he should be able to save substantial time, and that is one answer to the question of who would pay for such a system. It ought to pay for itself. If it saves court time, it will save expensive calls on public funds. If it can be shown in practice that it often saves the parties costs there can be little doubt that, in time, the fees of the friend of the court would be accepted as a cost of the proceedings.

The idea is not revolutionary. In many cases where there is an element of incapacity, the Official Solicitor already fulfils this role. Why not try it in other cases?

Maybe the time has come to experiment with a SPRINT procedure, in which a small number of cases of different types could be found where the parties agree to proceed with the help of a friend of the court, perhaps with funding from a large charity and with a university researching the results.

INNS AND OUTS

The right to hit children

AT THE END of this week's "National No Smacking Week", the campaign to end physical punishment of children (Epoch) will be assessing the success of its attempt to persuade parents to stop smacking children. Meanwhile, the Scottish Law Commission is considering whether the parental right to administer corporal punishment should be abolished.

The commission has recently undertaken a review of the law affecting children similar to the review of English law by the Law Commission, which preceded the Children Act 1989. The Scottish Law Commission will look at parental responsibilities and rights and is working with the Scottish Office, which has produced proposals for reform of childcare law.

or court staff. Users groups in other areas have changed court procedure, notably the introduction of conciliation appointments in ancillary relief cases.

Business of law

A SENIOR American judge has criticised the mass dismissals of young associates at leading New York law firms. In a message to the profession, published in the *New York Times*, Irving Kaufman, a judge in the US Court of Appeals, says the mass firings are a disgrace.

Pointing to the fact that the lawyers billed more than \$50 billion (£30.9 billion) in the \$25 billion (£12.9 billion) leveraged buyout of RJR Nabisco in 1988 and that partners in the leading firms took home in excess of \$1 million (£500,000) a year in the boom times, he says that the profession has been living beyond its means.

The commission has asked for comments on its proposals, which should be made by the end of February.

County clear-up

SOLICITORS concerned at how the county courts are likely to cope with an increased work load and a re-defined role in the court system, and the effect this may have on their own county court practices, might be interested in the experience of the Wandsworth County Court Users' Group, based in south London. According to Stephen Knasler, a partner at the London firm Anthony Gold Lerman & Muirhead, and the secretary of the Wandsworth group, users' groups are likely to have an increasing role to play as the county courts come to grips with their changed role.

Into Germany

THE number of UK firms establishing German operations continues with the announcement that the London firm Macfarlanes has extended its international "strategic alliance" to include a German law firm. Macfarlanes already runs a joint office in Brussels with the American firm O'Melveny & Myers and the French firm Simeon & Associates. The three are now joined by a fourth, the Munich-based German law firm Norr Stiefenhofer & Lutz, which brings offices in Dresden, Frankfurt, Prague and Budapest to the group, giving the alliance timely access to eastern Europe.

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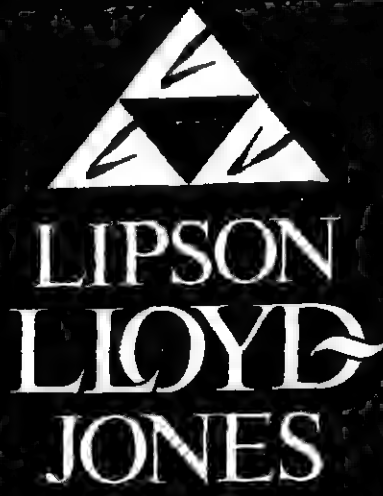
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Job-Hunting in the Recession

The speed with which candidates and employers, the two sides of the job-market, respond to each other reflects the balance of supply and demand. In the period 1986-1988, when candidates could choose at leisure which offer to accept, it was the employers who were keen to hurry candidates into committing themselves. Today the tables are turned. Employers are much more relaxed about the whole process of recruitment, preferring to interview a series of candidates before reaching their decision.

Active pursuit within the job-market now falls to the candidates. It is they who need to market themselves. This means attending more interviews and going to see firms which in better days they might have passed over. It also means responding rapidly to any overtures which a firm might make.

We have seen several instances recently in which candidates have been offered interviews with reputable firms and yet have been reluctant to visit them. By the time they agree to go, the vacancy has been filled. With so many candidates seeking positions at the moment, jobs do not stand vacant for long.

We have also had instances where candidates who were offered jobs they felt inclined to accept were nevertheless in no hurry to make up their minds. They wished to look around a little longer just to make sure nothing better was available. Two weeks later, when they were on the point of accepting the position, the employers withdrew the offer: they had seen someone else who seemed more enthusiastic.

Michael Chambers

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Commercial Litigation: West End

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Rail offers first class ticket for engineers

The picture of railway pioneer George Stephenson on the new £5 note is appropriate, because the second oldest age of rail beckons if investment is maintained. The three largest companies competing in the railway traction industry in the United Kingdom are newly-privatised Irel (formerly British Rail Engineering Ltd) at Derby, Jere and York; the Anglo-French GEC-Alsthom with factories in Manchester, Preston and Birmingham; and Brush Traction Ltd (Hawker Iddeley Group) at Loughborough.

All have strong order books across a range of work including design, manufacture and repair. They compete fiercely to collaborate on certain projects. Industry products include high speed trains, electric and diesel locomotives, coaches, metropolitan and urban light rail systems, power units and control gear. It is a high variety low volume business.

The UK is a major traction supplier, but home business is so buoyant, British Rail is equipping, including an order for 30 Class 91 locomotives for the recently electrified east coast main line. London Transport is investing. Brel has a contract to

The booming rail traction industry is providing a fast route to the top for engineers. Derek Morgan reports

replace the entire Underground Central Line rolling stock - and there is the development of the Trans Manche supertrain for the Channel tunnel.

About 60 traction-related graduate engineering traineeships will be offered this year across the railway supply industry. Despite media reports of recruitment problems in engineering, the railway companies do not generally have difficulties.

Ian Forrester, the personnel director at Brel's headquarters in Derby, says: "The quantity of engineers applying is not a problem - the quality is."

At GEC-Alsthom, Roy Ruddick, the training officer, says the company has no graduate recruitment problems, "although manufacturing and production is becoming more difficult".

Engineering has not always made best use of young engineers, but Mr Forrester points out that Brel has engineers at all levels of its management. He advises young graduates against unrealistic expectations - al-

though one recent Brel graduate has taken responsibility for a major repair contract after only six months.

Peter Morley, the training manager at Brush Traction, believes the industry does not promote itself vigorously enough as a career. Under-graduates do not fully appreciate the high-technology work in railways, he says. There are no rail traction courses at college.

Brel's Mr Forrester says: "It's a big product we make. If you are designing a bottling plant it does not have the appeal of a locomotive."

GEC-Alsthom emphasises broad-based training - 18 months' experience in different departments, but with set objectives followed by directed training.

Traction offers a range of jobs from design and manufacturing to project engineering, commissioning, and commercial functions such as contracts and sales. Two career routes are open - technical or general management, via project leader to department head and functional director.

All engineers, however, need to be all-rounders, and companies provide training in presentation skills, time management and teamwork.

A commercial awareness is also important. Mr Forrester says: "We are engineering for profit. It is all very well producing an elegant engineering solution, but it has to be one we can sell at a profit."

Traction industry salaries for graduate engineers starting work next September will be about £12,000. The industry is male-dominated, and needs more female engineers to apply for jobs. The trail-blazers have done well; Jane Clarke, for example, is a Brel project manager on a key job.

Companies also encourage trainees to study a foreign language. The railways could offer the chance to become an engineer abroad. ASEA Brown Boveri, the continental engineering giant, has a major shareholding in Brel, and some young engineers visit ABB to share project information. GEC-Alsthom Traction has four British graduates training in France, and Brel is talking to a Czech rail company, and building 20 trains for Thailand.



Training enthusiasts: Andy Brassington (left) and John Ward at Brel, Derby

PROFILE

ANDY Brassington, aged 25, joined Brel recently with a degree in electronic engineering, which he took after serving a technician apprenticeship with a small company. He is working on design projects to gain experience, including the Network Turbo for BR's southeastern commuters.

An electrical engineering graduate, John Ward, aged 24, is a manufacturing development engineer with Brel.

Both see the opportunity to gain chartered status as a big attraction. Brel's training scheme is accredited by the professional institutes. Mr Ward says: "It can be difficult to get chartered status without the support of the company." He also appreciates having a designated mentor. "It helps to discuss your progress with somebody detached from your day-to-day work." Recognising the need for engineers to broaden their skills, he is also taking a diploma in management studies.

Mr Brassington says: "There is a much greater commercial realism, with a bigger emphasis on quality and speed of production." Derby Carriage Works turns out up to six express diesel multiple units a week.

What about the image of the profession? Is it overalls and oily rags, or sitting at a computer keyboard and screen? "I go down to the shopfloor and get dirt under my fingernails," Mr Ward says. "There will always be managers who get their hands dirty."

Mr Brassington works at a drawing board, although Brel's design engineers increasingly use CAD (computer-aided design), but he liaises closely with the shop floor.

LEGAL APPOINTMENTS

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A written application together with comprehensive career details should be sent by 1st February to:

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Commencing salary is £17,000 rising to £18,000 by incremental progression after completion of a satisfactory probationary period of a year.

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Further details may be obtained from:

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Closing date for completed applications is 25th January 1991.

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Self help for potential hockey Olympians

By SYDNEY FRISKIN

IN HIS report to the Hockey Association council tomorrow, Tarn Hoddler, the chairman, will probably shake his audience with some startling facts and opinions.

For example: "The question has to be asked, and answered, as to why the generally poor results at both England and Great Britain level against the world's major sides have occurred."

Hoddler's report answers the question by asking another: "Is it caused by lack of skill, lack of commitment, lack of tactical awareness or for some other, yet unfathomable, reason? Potentially, we have an excellent group of young men waiting in the wings. It will be a tragedy if there

is no stage for them on which to perform.

"I am convinced that there are too many meetings of the top international sides. The FIH [hockey's international governing body] and its constituent bodies must address this issue. Likewise, we almost certainly will have to cut down both our international and domestic programme."

A note of warning was struck a little over two years ago by Roger Self, manager of the 1988 Great Britain Olympic gold medal-winning team, as a participant in the BBC Television programme, *The Golden Years*. When asked where the British went from here, he said: "The game should be taken back now to its grassroots and redeveloped from there."

Since his retirement from the

Great Britain Hockey Board in November 1988, Self has made two brief international appearances, as an assistant technical delegate at the BMW Trophy in Amsterdam last June and as manager of Europe in the recent Inter-Continental Cup in Kuala Lumpur.

While he says he is glad to be out of it and has no intention of coming back, he still has a finger on hockey's pulse. "Expectations in Britain are understandably high, but too high a profile of the players causes a dilemma," he says, blaming the media for it.

Despite the loss of such key players as Taylor, Barber and Dodds, Self still believes that Britain and indeed England have a strong base from which to strike. He holds the view that

England did well in the circumstances to take fifth place in the World Cup at Lahore.

Self advocates a change in the policy for Olympic selection: "You have to find your potential Olympians first and then promote them positionally instead of the other way around."

In the build-up to the Olympic Games during 1991 and during the Games themselves next year, he expects the opposition to be tougher than before. Australia, Germany, the Netherlands, Pakistan, India, the Soviet Union and Spain will all be familiar rivals. Of these, Self gives the highest rating to Australia for the gold medal in Barcelona on the basis of their athleticism and emphasis on speed and strength.

Germany started the world by

replacing their experienced coach, Klaus Kleiter, before the recent Champions Trophy in Melbourne because they thought his powers of motivation were insufficient. "I wonder if we would have done that," Self says.

Without Blocher and Fischer to tip the balance, he thinks Germany will be made to struggle. On the Netherlands, Self says: "You have to understand the psychology of a team so rich in talent and yet so despairingly lacking in teamwork."

His final message has a familiar ring. "I think there is such a busy international calendar that players are always under excessive pressure. With all the international matches we are seeing, I wonder whether they are ready for it all?"



Self: dilemma over profile

Oilers no match for slick Esiason

By ROBERT KIRLEY

THE Cincinnati Bengals pressed ahead as fast as the Houston Oilers backpedaled on Sunday. Appropriately, Cincinnati won by the palindromic score of 41-41. Boomer Esiason completed two touchdown passes and ran for another as Cincinnati won at home in an American Football Conference (AFC) wild-card play-off.

In the AFC semi-finals next weekend, Miami, a wild-card club that won on Saturday, will play away at Buffalo, and Cincinnati will visit the Los Angeles Raiders.

Houston did not manage a first down until the last minute of the first half. By then Cincinnati had accumulated 212 yards and led 20-0. The Oilers gained 36 yards before halftime, with one rushing yard.

Esiason completed 14 of 20 passes for 150 yards, including scoring tosses of nine yards to Eric Kuttus and two yards to Harold Green. Esiason also rushed for a two-yard score. The Bengals, who had defeated Houston 40-20 two weeks ago, also scored rushing touchdowns of three yards by Eric Ball and one yard by Lekey Woods.

In the National Conference, Neil Anderson, of the Chicago Bears, gained 102 yards, Kevin Butler kicked three field goals and the Bears did not allow a touchdown in a 16-6 win over the New Orleans Saints. The Bears, the Central champions, will travel to the East champions, the Washington Redskins, winners on Saturday, will play away to the West champions, San Francisco.

RESULTS: Bengals won AFC Cincinnati 41-41 Houston Oilers 16-6. Bengals at Houston, Sunday. Bears at Chicago, Sunday. Redskins at Washington, Sunday. Packers at Green Bay, Sunday. Browns at Cleveland, Sunday. Colts at Indianapolis, Sunday. Vikings at Minnesota, Sunday. Saints at New Orleans, Sunday. Panthers at Atlanta, Sunday. Falcons at Miami, Sunday. Dolphins at New England, Sunday. Jets at Buffalo, Sunday. Bills at Cincinnati, Sunday. Browns at Cleveland, Sunday. Colts at Indianapolis, Sunday. Vikings at Minnesota, Sunday. Saints at New Orleans, Sunday. Panthers at Atlanta, Sunday. Falcons at Miami, Sunday. Dolphins at New England, Sunday. Jets at Buffalo, Sunday. Bills at Cincinnati, Sunday.

Bordeaux prepare for relegation in wake of Bez scandal

OVERSEAS FOOTBALL by KEITH BLACKMORE

FRENCH football is in turmoil as it prepares for the resumption of the season next weekend after the winter break. The players of Bordeaux will take the field against Metz knowing that the destiny of the club is out of their hands, and the players' union has called for a strike by first and second division players on January 26 and 27 unless the league abolishes plans to impose restrictions on transfers.

Bordeaux, runners-up to Marseille in the championship last year and lying in mid-table this season, are almost certain to be forced out of the first division for the first time since 1963. Relegation will follow automatically, if, as expected, the club goes into receivership with debts of more than £25 million.

The debt is a legacy of the administration of the former president, Claude Bez, who was forced to sever all connections with the club earlier this season after he had been charged with fraud. Since then, his successor, Alain Afflelou, has been trying to raise the money to save the club and many hopes had been placed on a local

businessman, Jean-Pierre Derose. These hopes were dashed when Derose said his efforts to find financial support had failed.

Afflelou has said he sees no alternative to receivership but has delayed making a final decision until this week.

League regulations would automatically relegate Bordeaux should the club be declared bankrupt, but Afflelou has appealed to the French Football Federation to make an exception for his club. This seems unlikely and Afflelou has warned he would go to court to oppose relegation.

Whatever happens, the

troubles of Bordeaux are a reminder to all of how hard the mighty can fall. Founded in 1898, Bordeaux won the championship in 1950, 1984, 1985 and 1987, the cup in 1941, 1986 and 1987, and reached the semi-finals of the European Cup in 1985.

If the players' union were to go ahead, it would be the first all-out stoppage by players in France. In January 1972, a similar strike call was observed by the majority of first division players and only two of the scheduled ten matches were able to be played.

The French league last month adopted a five-point plan designed to stamp out under-the-table payments to players in transfer dealings following a wave of scandal. One of the most controversial points was the restriction on players having complete freedom of movement with the suppression of the release clause in contracts.

Trouble of a different sort

highlighted the weekend in Italy. Almost 300 supporters were rounded up by police in Turin, Florence and Genoa during first division matches.

Most of the trouble occurred in Turin, where Juventus were playing Naples. After damaging buses and trains, more than 250 people, the majority from Naples, were taken to police stations and identified before being released. Some may be banned from attending football matches.

Things were little better on the field. Juventus won with an 88th-minute goal from

Luca Toni, but Naples had two men sent off, one of them their goalkeeper, Galli.

Internazionale regained the leadership by beating Genoa 2-1, with goals by Matthaus and Klinsmann.

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THE TIMES

SPORT

Mackay fearless in pursuit of upset at Anfield

By IAN ROSS and LOUISE TAYLOR

THE fact that Liverpool rarely afford their opponents a second chance has obviously been lost on Don Mackay, the manager of Blackburn Rovers.

On Saturday at Ewood Park, Rovers, who are struggling in the bottom half of the second division, came within 15 seconds of fulfilling Mackay's bold prophecy that Liverpool's FA Cup campaign would end in third-round defeat.

The painful memory of Mark Atkins' injury-time own goal has been erased and Mackay, a professed optimist, is confident that his side will achieve an improbable victory in tonight's replay against the League champions at Anfield.

"I know everyone thinks that we have had it and that we blew our great opportunity on Saturday," Mackay said. "We will go there with a positive attitude because the disappointment we felt at the weekend is now behind us. Before we met them I felt that we could win and I still do."

"The last time we met them in a cup competition we drew at home and were beaten at Anfield only in the last minute. The thing that concerns me the most is that they will have had a kick up the backside after Saturday's performance. It may be something similar to last week when they picked themselves up to defeat Leeds United after being beaten at Crystal Palace.

"I appreciate that they have not lost at home for a long time but there must be a first time for everything, so perhaps it will be tomorrow."

Howard Gayle, the Blackburn forward who played a handful of games for Liverpool in 1980, concurred with his manager that his former club's passage to the fourth round, and a home tie against Brighton, is far from a formality.

"We will go out and give everything we have once again. We are still in with a tremendous chance," Gayle said.

Atkins, who has been cleared of all blame by his manager, may miss tonight's game because of a stomach upset. "People will read things into that but they will be wrong," Mackay, who has placed Chris Sulley on standby, said.

Predictably, Liverpool's plans for a game that is expected to attract a crowd in excess of 30,000 remain unclear.

Kenny Dalglish, the team manager, was in no mood to divulge either his selection options or his opinions yesterday, saying only that Peter Beardsley and Ronnie Whelan, who have both missed the last five games because of injury, had resumed full training.

"Everything else has been said," he added.

Leyton Orient travel to

Swindon Town for tonight's FA Cup third-round replay, with the man who made the rematch possible facing a late fitness test. Geoff Pike, who scored the Orient equaliser in Saturday's 1-1 draw, is suffering from a calf strain, while Steve Castle, the leading scorer, is also doubtful with an ankle injury.

Ossie Ardiles, the Swindon manager, is expected to name the side which drew in London, with the exciting, if erratic, Fitzroy Simpson a substitute. Tonight's winners will be away to Norwich City in the fourth round.

There will be a contrast of styles at Plymouth Argyle where Middlesbrough, who hate to pass once when they can do so six times, visit a fellow second division side managed by David Kemp, who remains true to the principles he acquired while a coach at Wimbledon.

Saturday's match at Ayresome Park produced a goalless draw, but Middlesbrough have tended to reserve their best performances for away trips this season, and will be aware that Nicky Marker and Kenny Brown are scheduled to start for Plymouth, despite being well short of full fitness.

Middlesbrough add John Wark and Alan Kernaghan to the 13 which finished on Saturday. The winners can look forward to a fourth-round date at Cambridge.

Ex-champ emerges seeking pride

IAN STEWART



Back in style: "I'm not a person to run away," Honeyghan tells reporters yesterday

Honeyghan eyes fresh title

By SRIKUMAR SEN, BOXING CORRESPONDENT

AFTER doing his Howard Hughes act for ten months, Lloyd Honeyghan has returned to the world of the living. The former world welterweight champion, who walked away from boxing after being crushed in three rounds by Mark Breland at Wembley Arena last March, is back in London to convince the world he still has plenty to give to the sport.

Aged 30 and weighing a comfortable 11 stones, Honeyghan told a press conference yesterday he expected to be world champion, light-middleweight this time, in 18 months. "My tools aren't blunt yet," he said. He had had to pass "scary" medical tests before being allowed by

the British board to box, but added: "I'm not worried about fighting again. I am looking forward to it."

Honeyghan has his first contest against one Mario Olmedo, of San Jose, California, at the Latchmere Leisure Centre (capacity 1,100) on Thursday, when boxing followers should know more about how much he has left. By the time he has his second bout all should be clear. If after that bout he felt he did not have enough to be competitive Honeyghan said he would retire.

The man who once owned two houses and a Rolls-Royce and who boxed for high five-figure and six-figure sums lives in rented accommoda-

tion these days. He said he had lost £150,000 on one of his houses when he sold up in a hurry to get away from it all.

Although he will be receiving less than £10,000 on Thursday, he still has his partiality for style. For the last month he has been living at the Holiday Inn, Swiss Cottage, London, for £1,000 a week with a hired car conveying him to and from work. All at his own expense.

Honeyghan claimed he was not coming back for money but for his pride. "I want to feel the referee lifting my hand up," he said. "I'm not a person to run away. What stuck in my mind after Breland was somebody throwing a programme at me. That hurt me inside."

R and A wins compensation

By MITCHELL PLATT, GOLF CORRESPONDENT

THE Royal and Ancient Golf Club of St Andrews announced yesterday it had won a judgment in a United States court against the Karsten Manufacturing Corporation following a prolonged legal battle concerning the Ping Eye 2 golf club manufactured by the Arizona-based company.

More than two years ago the United States Golf Association (USGA) declared that the Ping Eye 2 club did not meet its specification, the controversy being over the shape of the grooves on the face of the club. The R and A also ruled that the clubs could

not be used in its competitions from January 1990, and that the ban would extend to apply to millions of recreational golfers in 1990.

In August 1989, Karsten sued the R and A and USGA, and some of their officers, for \$300 million under the American anti-trust law. One year ago an American judge dismissed the case against the R and A and all individuals, and in March 1990 Karsten settled its lawsuit with the USGA by agreeing to manufacture the Ping Eye 2 clubs with proper markings.

The R and A subsequently filed a motion in an Arizona

court for a sum of \$119,567, seeking compensation for attorney fees and costs, and an American judge has now ruled in its favour by awarding it \$107,928.

Michael Bonallack, the secretary of the Royal and Ancient, said: "It is very unusual to get any costs at all in an American court. We are delighted with the outcome. The R and A is confident that future problems of this nature can be avoided if manufacturers observe the rules of golf and submit any questionable clubs to the governing bodies for review before selling to the public."

Sheffield appeal over Games

By PETER DAVENPORT

LEADERS of Sheffield City Council, which faces huge losses on the World Student Games this year, were yesterday preparing a document which they hope will persuade Michael Heseltine, the environment secretary, to change government policy and bail them out.

With six months to go before the event, the council is £11 million short of the minimum £17 million costs of staging it. But, after allowing for expected ticket sales and merchandising income, it estimates a financial shortfall of between £6 million and £7 million.

Although the building of new sports facilities costing £147 million has progressed smoothly, the running of the Games has been dogged by financial controversy and uncertainties since the beginning.

Heseltine has agreed to meet a delegation from the council on January 16 to listen

COMMENT

to an appeal for central government funding.

Yesterday Clive Betts, the council leader, said it hoped to persuade Heseltine that the event was a key factor in Sheffield's economic regeneration after a decade in which 40,000 jobs were lost in the free-fall decline of its traditional industries.

"The Games are a classic example of policies that Mr Heseltine has openly supported in the past, namely that of the public and private sectors working together," Betts said.

He and his fellow councillors believe that the Games should be seen as a British event and not something for their city, and that, given government goodwill, the legislative mechanisms to provide emergency funding are already in place.

They are reluctant to put a

figure on the contribution they are seeking. Ideally, they would want the government to meet all the projected shortfall. They argue that if the recent National Garden Festival could attract £4 million of central government funding, an event such as the World Student Games deserves as much, if not more.

The council is pinning hopes of a change of attitude within the environment department after the departure of Mrs Thatcher and the appointment of Heseltine, who is known for his concerns for the regions and inner-city regeneration. Many of the new sports facilities in Sheffield are located in the old industrial heartlands of the Lower Don Valley.

Officials in Heseltine's department insisted last week, however, that although he was prepared to listen, the government was not prepared to underwrite the cost of the Games.

Whatever the outcome of

next week's meeting, Betts reiterated yesterday that the Games would go ahead. Despite the opinions of some Labour councillors and MPs that they should be cancelled if central government funding were not forthcoming, Betts said there was no question other than that the event would be staged.

"Cancellation itself would carry enormous costs," he said. Sheffield faces "horrific" financial difficulties this year with the prospect of having to introduce £35 million of budget cuts — and up to 3,500 job losses — to avoid poll tax capping.

That figure has been reached only by using up council reserves of £20 million, and if the authority has to fund the outstanding £6 million or £7 million for running the Games, that could mean a one-off, £200-a-head poll-tax payment for its citizens, although the more likely result would be further cuts in services.

More pressure on ICC to end S Africa's exile

FROM ALAN LEE, CRICKET CORRESPONDENT, SYDNEY

ENGLAND'S delegates to the extraordinary meeting of the International Cricket Council this week are keen to support South Africa's imminent re-admission to the Test circuit, 21 years after they were banished.

Only two years after playing a leading role in new legislation to impose five-year Test suspensions on any cricketers playing in South Africa, English administrators believe the climate has altered dramatically enough to justify reviving the whole issue.

They have been lobbying the representatives of other countries during the Sydney Test match and hope that the ICC, which convenes tomorrow in Melbourne, will agree to send a fact-finding team to South Africa.

The problem, for the English, is that they would prefer the official initiative to come from a non-white country, such as West Indies or Pakistan, but this remains a pious hope.

Alan Smith, chief executive of the Test and County Cricket Board, explained yesterday: "We have to consider whether the situation in South Africa has changed and, if it has, what we are going to do about it. Is it the right time to send a fact-finding mission?"

"What is important is that we should not just say that we made a decision on South Africa two years ago and should forget the subject. Things can change. We were very upset about the latest rebel tour and made our feelings known about South Africa's actions. But that has gone, we have to look forward."

"I would like to see them reinvolved in international cricket but we don't intend to bang the table about it. The best way of getting them back is to keep calm and assess what is changing over there."

A cynical view of the English enthusiasm, which will certainly find support from Australia and New Zealand, is that South Africa's return

would redress the balance of power in world cricket which, in recent years, has shifted towards the majority black nations.

A realistic view, whatever one's stance, is that no such initiative is likely to be pushed through this week with South Africa still in a sensitive political and sporting state.

Li-Col John Stephenson, secretary of the ICC, describes the recent merging of South Africa's two racially-split cricketing bodies, the union and the board, as being "like the coming down of the Berlin Wall". But it is doubtful whether the West Indian and Pakistani representatives will be quite so impressed.

The recent Test series between these countries may also be discussed under the heading of "any other business". Although no open allegations were made, further to those already filed by New Zealand, I understand there was considerable concern over the damage to the balls when Pakistan were in the field. Colin Cowdrey, chairman of the ICC, was present for part of the series and took away with him one of the suspect balls, exhibit A, in an anticipated debate on the whole subject of ball abuse.

This may, of course, come under the much-discussed international code of conduct, which should at last be put in position, perhaps in time for the summer series between England and the West Indies. The code would effectively take disciplinary matters out of the hands of individual team managements. An independent referee would sit at all Test matches with extensive powers to adjudicate on misdemeanours and sentence offenders.

But if referees are to be a thing of the near future, the international umpiring panel is not.

Test match report and scoreboard, page 28

Richards presents awesome prospect

FROM A SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT IN LANZAROTE

ENGLAND ended a five-day training visit here yesterday with a timely appreciation by Geoff Cooke, their manager, of the unique playing qualities of Dean Richards, the British Lions and Leicester forward.

With the opening five nations' championship match at Wales on January 19, Cooke said that Richards had the ability to become an awesome international.

Richards, who commands considerable respect from the opposition, missed last season's championship after an operation to his right shoulder. "He has had a long time out and I do not think we have seen anything near what Dean is capable of at international level," Cooke said.

"He has enormous upper-body strength and an uncanny ability to be in the right place at the right time. He is like Murray Mexted, of New Zealand, and we have not seen the best of Dean. He has a long way to go in terms of personal

fitness and, if he can find the time over the next couple of months, he could be awesome."

"Dean doesn't say a lot on the field and leads by example. He has an aura about him that is hard to define. He has an instinctive feel for the game and does not follow textbook lines of running. He is remarkably effective and it is often difficult to determine exactly what he does."

England finished their training trip to the holiday island with another opposed practice yesterday morning despite this part of the programme producing injuries to Jon Hall and Brian Moore in previous days. This time Nigel Heslop needed treatment for a head injury before Mike Teague twisted his left ankle as the players maintained a ferocious pace.

Neither player was seriously damaged. Unable to play were Simon Dear, who has a neck injury, and Gary Rees, who is resting an injured shoulder.

Wales arrange to train at a secret location

By GERALD DAVIES

AS England returned from Lanzarote, Wales settled down yesterday for their squad training preparation at the national sports centre in Cardiff in readiness for the match on January 19. They will remain there until Thursday morning, when the team to play England will be announced.

Like England, Wales will have to await fitness reports on their players. Robert Jones, who has a viral infection, had to undergo blood tests in the morning and did not participate in any of the training. He will have to await the results, but Ron Waldron, the team manager, hopes that the scrum half will be able to resume training this morning.

Adrian Davies, the Cambridge University and Neath stand-off half, were not present because he is still suffering from shoulder injuries which have dogged him in recent weeks. He was undergoing a scan at a private hospital in Carmarthen.

Mike Griffiths, the Cardiff prop, did take part in the training session, but twisted his ankle and as a precautionary measure he came off and did not take any further part in the morning's stint.

Today, the training will take the form of a match and, as if to indicate the general nervousness surrounding Welsh prospects, this will be held at a secret location.

Keith Crossan, Ireland's international left wing, who has been out of action since late November with a small bone fracture near the ankle, has received the all-clear to start training immediately.

Crossan, if selected for Ireland's opening match against France on February 2 in Dublin, will break Trevor Ringland's record number of appearances for an Ireland wing three-quarter. Ringland won 34 caps during his career and Crossan made his 34th appearance against Argentina last October.

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